

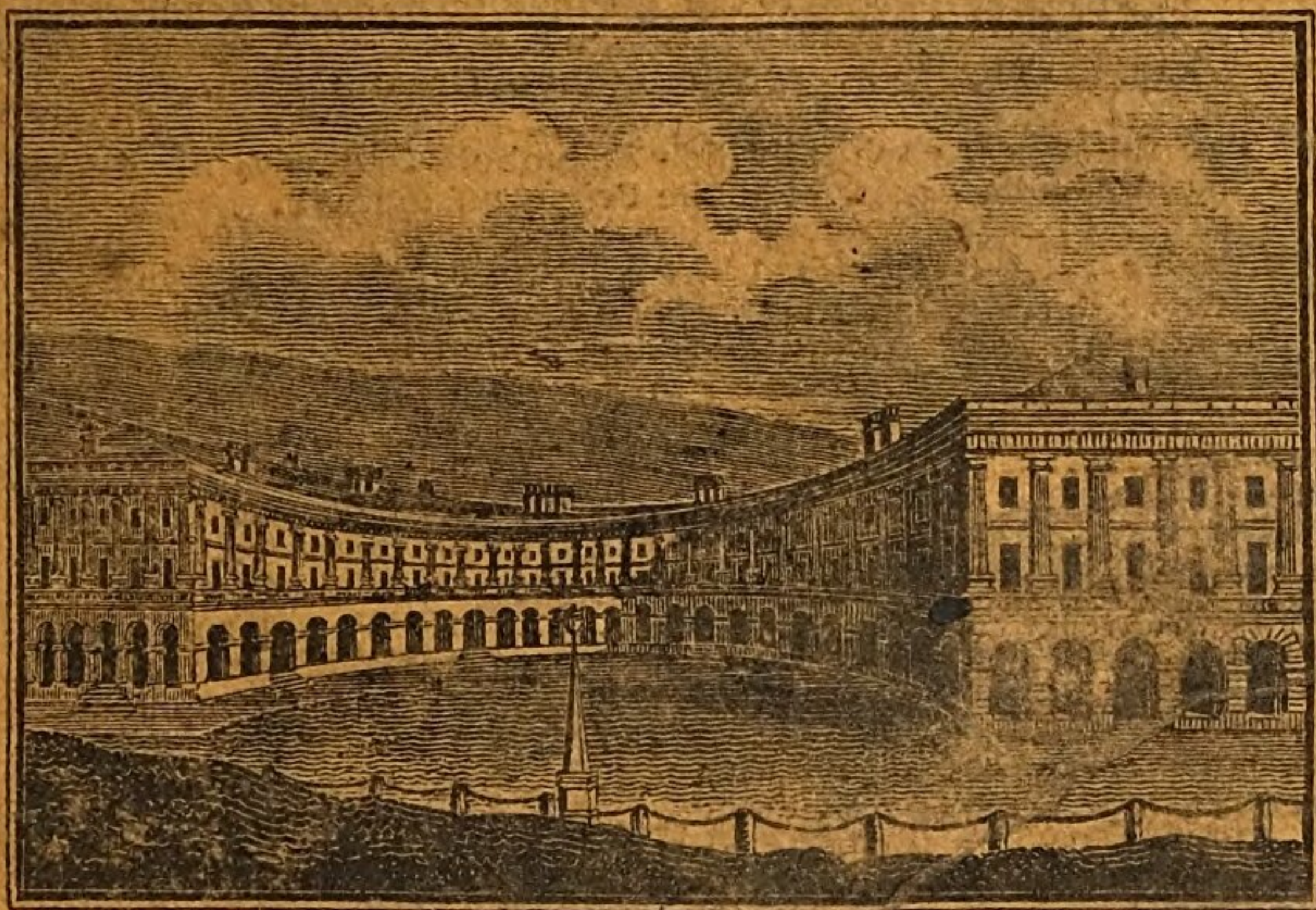
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COOKE'S
Topography of Great-Britain,
OR,
BRITISH TRAVELLER'S
Pocket-Directory;

Being an accurate and comprehensive Topographical and Statistical Description
OF ALL THE COUNTIES
IN ENGLAND, WALES, AND SCOTLAND.



PART XIV. PRICE 2s.
CONTAINING A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE
COUNTY OF BEDFORD.

Illustrated with a MAP of the County, and PICTURESQUE VIEWS.

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To each County are prefixed a Map and a List of the MARKETS and FAIRS; an INDEX, showing the Distance of every Town from London, and of Towns from each other; also a copious TRAVELLING GUIDE, describing all the Roads, Inns, Distances of Stages, Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats, &c. forming a COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

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††† The present Proprietors being desirous that this Work should continue to merit that high Estimation in which it has so long been held, are determined not to spare either Pains or Expense in collecting the best and most recent Information on every Subject connected with it, for the Purpose of improving and correcting it, as the Parts require reprinting. With this View they respectfully solicit any Suggestions or Corrections, which will be thankfully received, if addressed to the Editor, at No. 20, Paternoster-Row.

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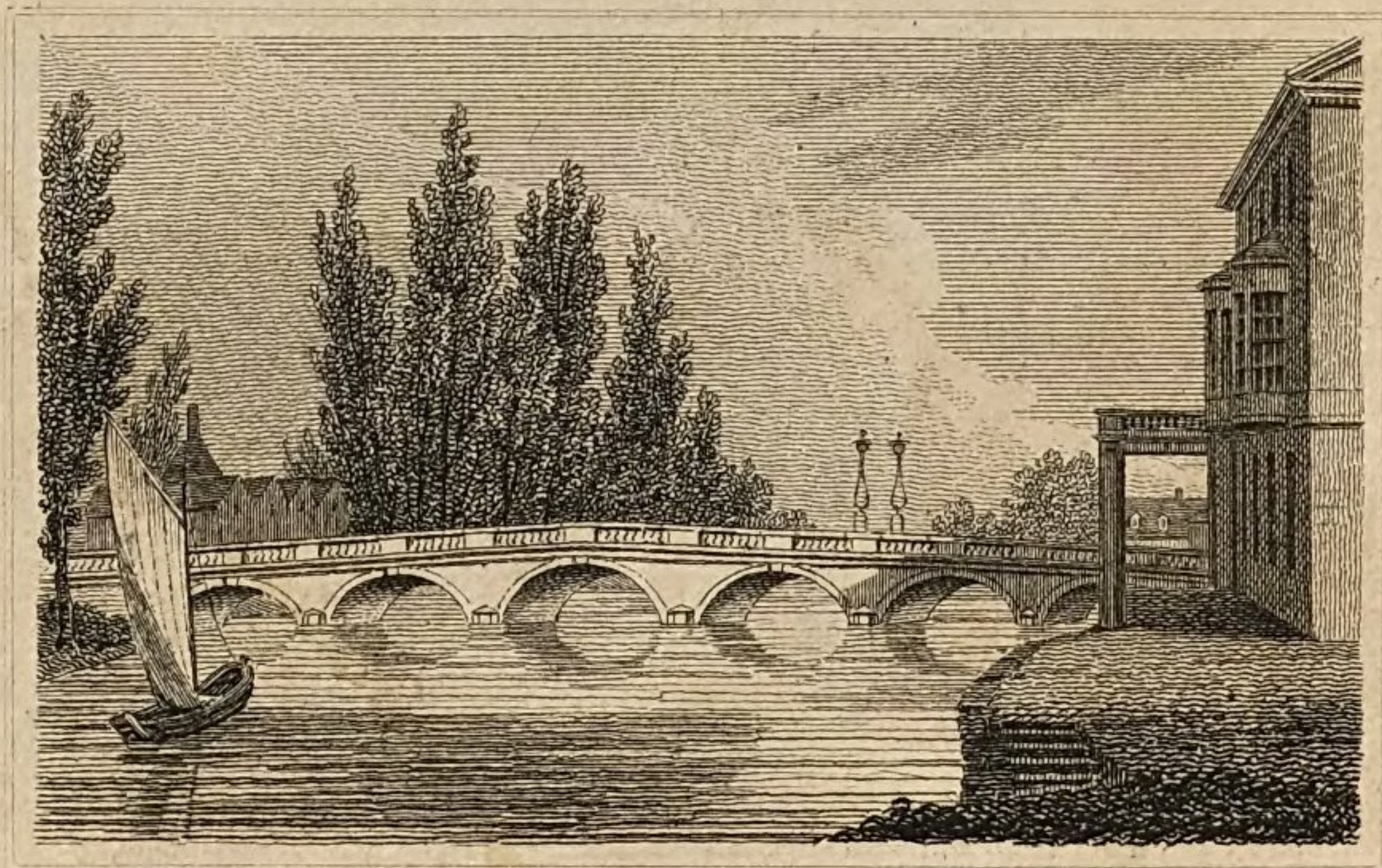
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Maps and Plates; and by Means of them, (all of which are of ac-
knowledge Accuracy) the Nature of the Soil, the Productions,
Improvements, and peculiar Practices of each County, are fully
developed.

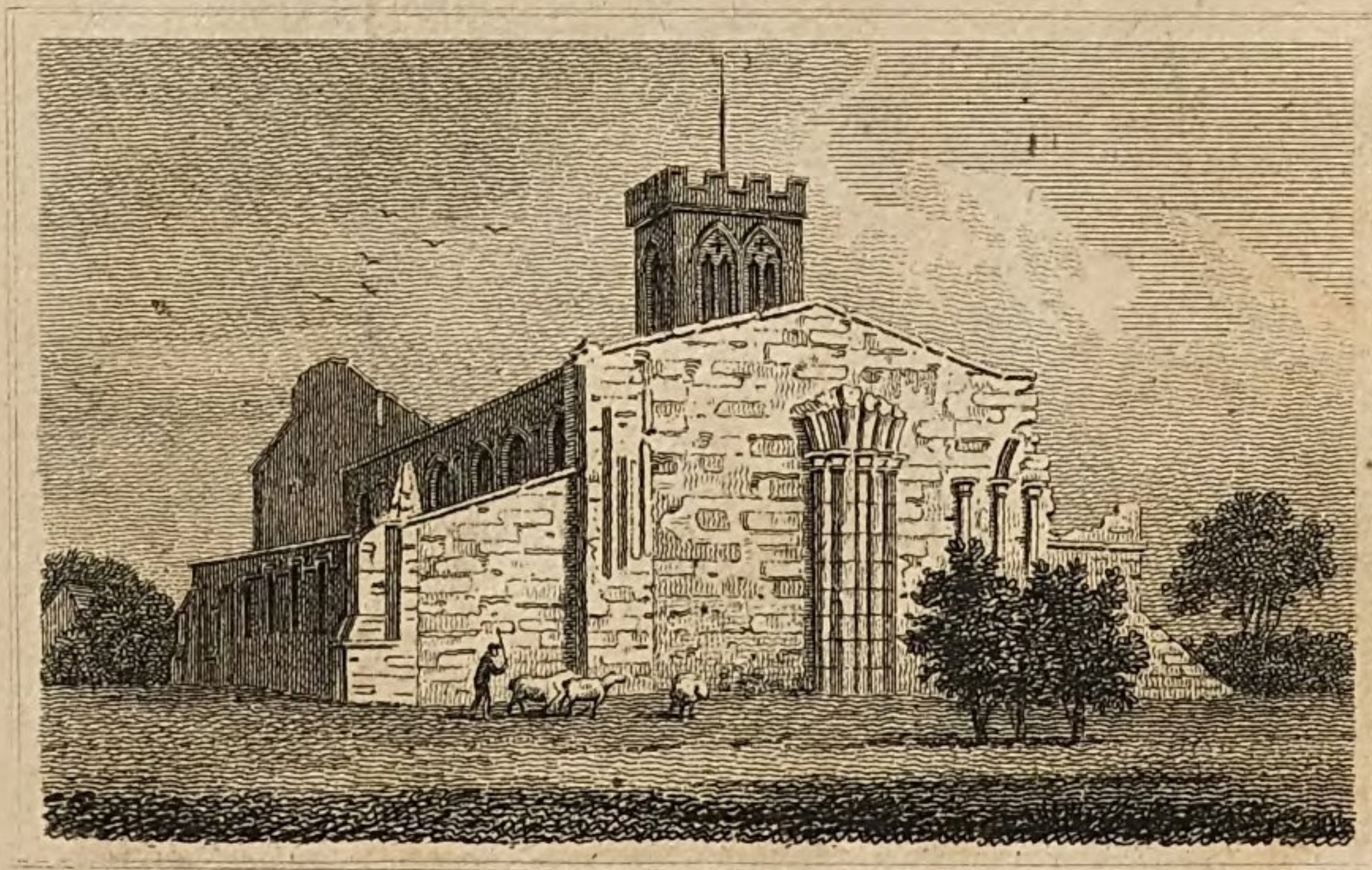
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aggregate of General Information, and Point of Reference on
all Occasions.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

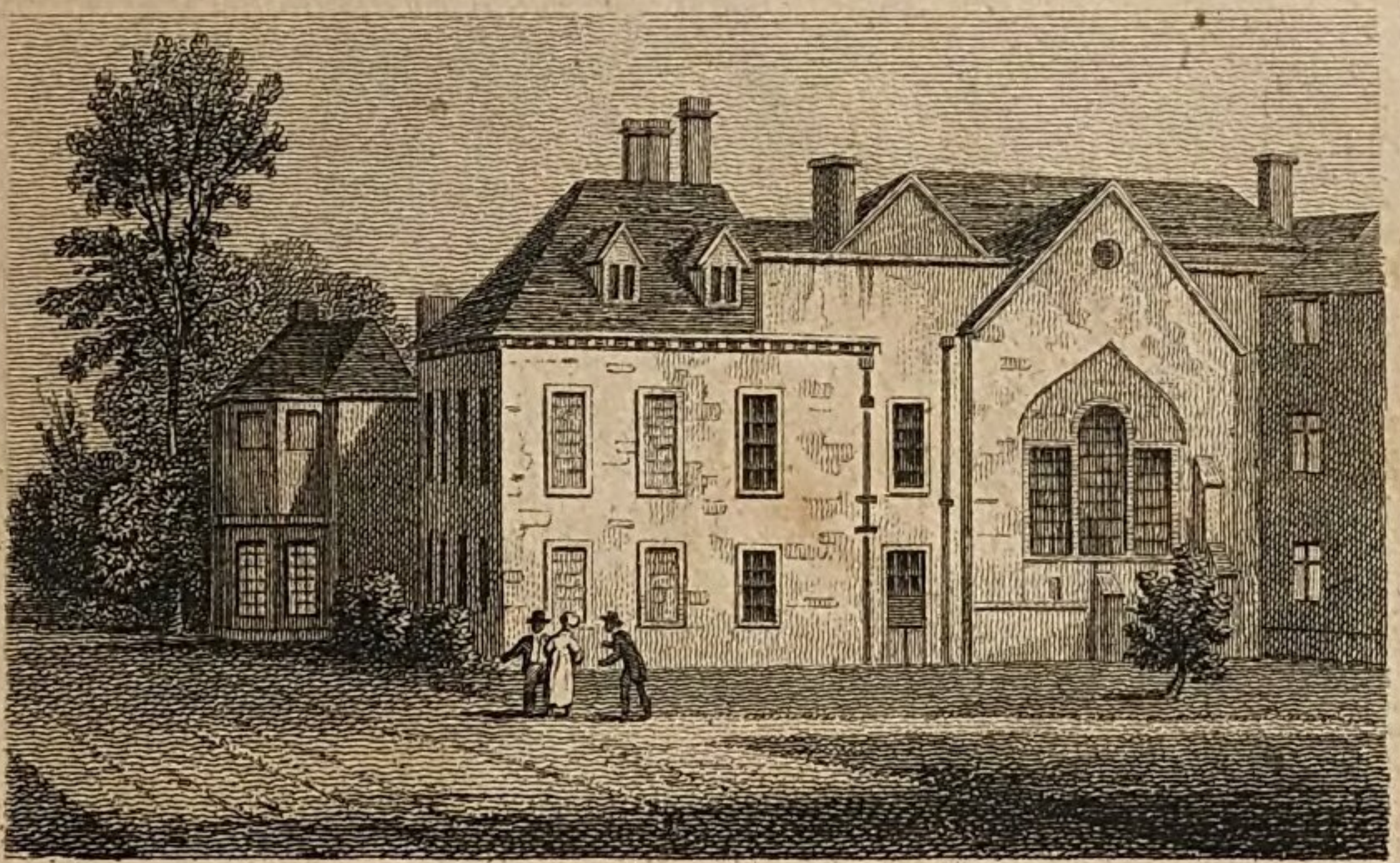


Bedford Bridge.



Dunstable Priory.

BEDFORDSHIRE.



Wrest Park.



Odell Church.

TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE COUNTY OF
BEDFORD.

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Minerals,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Roads,	Commerce,	Antiquities,
Rivers,	Fairs,	Natural History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

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A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE ;

Exhibiting,

The Direct and principal Cross Roads,

Inns and Distance of Stages,

Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.

Forming a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

Also,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS ;

And an Index Table,

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of all the Towns
from London, and from each other.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,

Editor of the Universal System of Geography.

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London:

Printed for C. COOKE, No. 17, Paternoster Row,
by Brimmer and Co. Water Lane, Fleet Street,
And sold by all the Booksellers in
the United Kingdom.

INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

In the County of Bedford.

The names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

	Bedford, . . . Distant from London, . . . Miles				50							
Amphill, . .	8	Amphill,			46							
Biggleswade, .	11	14	Biggleswade,			45						
Dunstable, . .	18	12	22	Dunstable,			36					
Harold, . . .	9	14	20	24	Harold,			58				
Leighton Buzard,	19	14	28	8	22	Leighton Buzard,			41			
Luton, . - .	19	14	19	3	28	12	Luton, . . . , . . .			31		
Potton, . . .	12	16	6	28	21	28	23	Potton,			48	
Woburn, . . .	14	8	22	9	16	6	12	27	Woburn, . . .			43

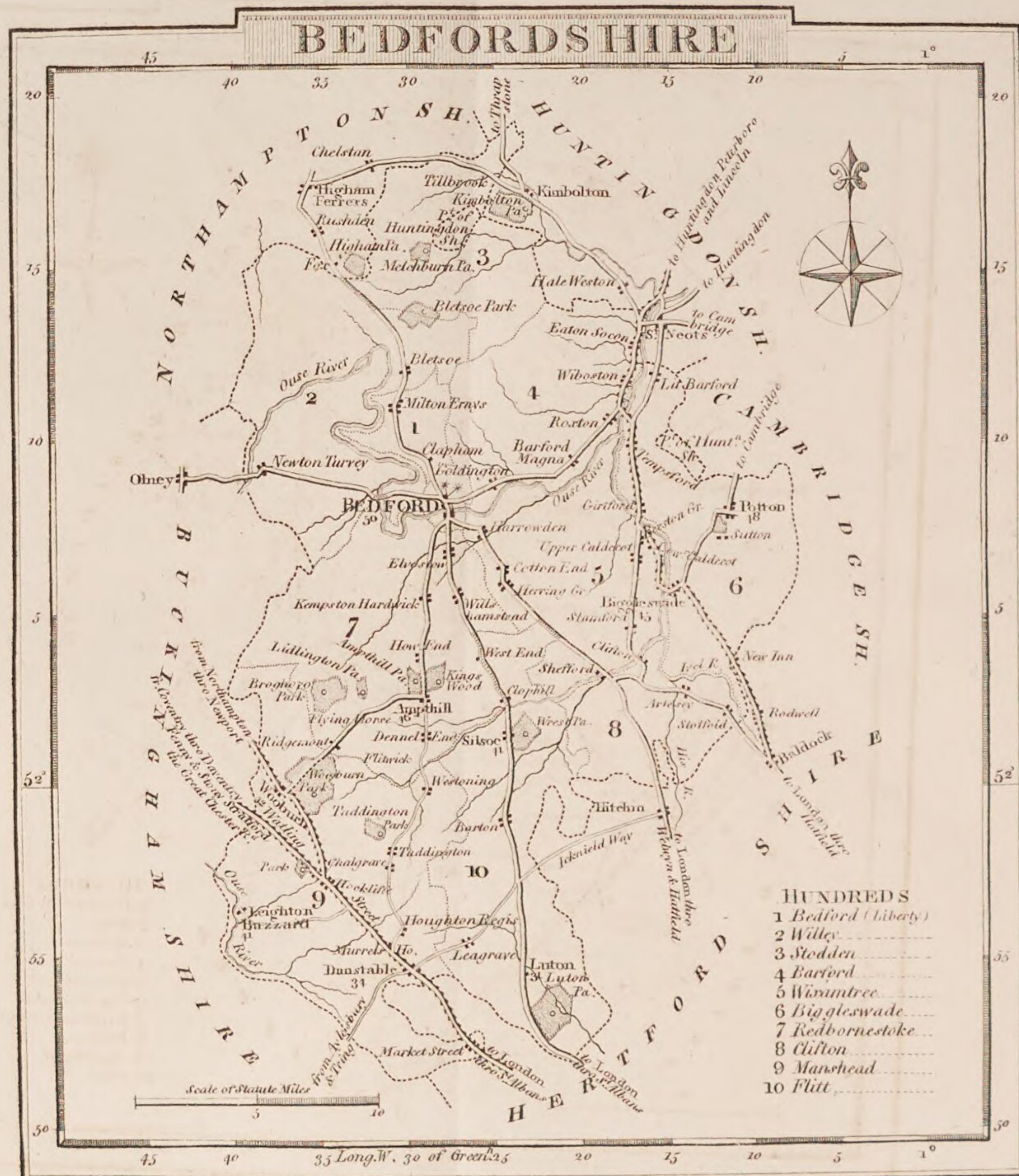
INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD.

BEDFORDSHIRE IS IN THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
The counties of Northampton and Huntingdon on the north, Huntingdon and Cambridge on the east. Hertford on the south and south-west. Buckingham on the west and south-west,	It extends 32 miles in length. 22 miles in breadth. 145 miles in circumference.	9 hundreds. 9 market towns. 121 parishes. 63,393 inhabitants.	Two Members, <i>viz.</i> From Bedford the county town.	Corn of various descriptions ; garden vegetables ; cheese, and butter. The principal manufactures are those of thread, lace, and straw hats, &c.

This county derives its name from its principal town, called *Bedanford*, by the Saxons, signifying the fortress on the ford.

BEDFORDSHIRE



The County Town is denoted by red and the respective Hundreds of the County by different Colours which distinctions are peculiar to the Superior Edition

AN ITINERARY OF ALL THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

JOURNEY FROM HIGHAM FERRERS TO LUTON,

THROUGH BEDFORD.

Higham Ferrers to				
— — —				Knuston-hall, Lady Cave. R
Rushden	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$		At Rushden, T. Fletcher, esq.
Knotting	$3\frac{1}{2}$	5		Inn—Fox.
— — —				Colworth-house, William Lee
— — —				Antoine, esq.
— — —				Sharnbrook, J. Gibbard, esq.
Bletsoe	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$		Inn—Falcon. At Bletsoe
				some remains of the castle
				belonging to Lord St.
				John.
Milton Ernest	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{3}{4}$		
— — —				Oakley-house, Lord John
				Russel. R
Clapham, T. G.	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$		
BEDFORD	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$		Inns—George, Star, Swan.
Elstow	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{4}$		Elstow Lodge, Samuel Whit-
Willshemstead	3	$19\frac{1}{4}$		bread, esq.
— — —				Haynes, Lord Carteret. L
Clophill	5	$24\frac{1}{4}$		Inn—Flying Horse.
Silsoe	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{3}{4}$		Inn—George. Wrest Park,
				Lady Lucas. L

Barton in the clay	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$28\frac{1}{2}$	At Barton, Rev. Mr. Hawkins, and James Stuart, esq.
Cross the River			
Lea			
— — —			Stockwood, J. Crawley, esq. R
LUTON	$6\frac{1}{2}$	35	Inn—George.
			Luton Hoe Park, Marquis of Bute.

JOURNEY FROM BEDFORD TO SILSOE.

Bedford to			
Elstow	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Inn—Red Lion. Elstow
			Lodge, Samuel Whitbread, esq.
Willshamstead	3	$4\frac{1}{2}$	Haynes, Lord Carteret. L
— — —			
Clophill	5	$9\frac{1}{2}$	Inn—Flying Horse.
Silsoe	$1\frac{1}{2}$	11	

JOURNEY FROM BEDFORD TO HITCHIN,
THROUGH SHEFFORD.

Bedford to			
Cross the River			
Ouse.			
Fenlake	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
Cotton End	2	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
Shefford	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—George.
— — —			Offley Place, Lady Salisbury. R
— — —			High-Down-house, Emitus Henry Delme, esq. R
— — —			Icleford-house, T. Cockayne, esq. L
HITCHIN	7	$15\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—Sun. Priory, Lady Farnaby Ratcliffe.

JOURNEY FROM BEDFORD TO DUNSTABLE.
THROUGH AMPHILL.

Bedford to		
Elstow	2	2

ROADS IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

7

Hardwick	2	4	
— — —	3	7	<i>Amptthill-park, Earl of Upper Ossory.</i>
AMPTHILL	1	8	<i>Inns—King's Arms, White Hart.</i>
Dennel End	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	
Flitwick	1	$10\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At Flitwick, Robert Trevor, esq. L</i>
Westoning	$1\frac{1}{2}$	12	
Toddington	3	15	<i>Toddington Park, Sir Michael Cromie, bart.</i>
Chalgrave	1	16	
Houghton Regis	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At Houghton Regis. ——— Brandreth, esq.</i>
DUNSTABLE	1	$19\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inns—Bull, Crown, Sugar-loaf.</i>

JOURNEY FROM WOBURN TO
DUNSTABLE.

Woburn to			<i>Woburn Abbey, Duke of Bedford.</i>
— — —			<i>Seat of Sir Hugh Inglis, bart. L</i>
— — —			<i>Battlesden-house, Sir G. Page Turner, bart.</i>
Hockliffe, T. G.	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Hockliffe Lodge, R. Gilpin, esq. R</i>
DUNSTABLE	$4\frac{1}{2}$	9	<i>Inns—Bull, Crown, Sugar-loaf.</i>

JOURNEY FROM TURVEY TO EATON-
SOCON,

THROUGH BEDFORD.

Turvey to		
Grange	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Cross the River Ouse.</i>		

Bromham Bridge	$\frac{3}{4}$	5	At Bromham, Lord Hamilton Trevor, R
<i>Cross the River Ouse.</i>			
BEDFORD	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	Inns—George, Star, Swan.
Goldington Green	$1\frac{3}{4}$	10	
Great Barford	4	14	
Roxton,	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{4}$	At Roxton, Hon. Colonel Onslow.
Wyboston	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	
Eaton Socon	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$18\frac{3}{4}$	Inns—Cock, White Horse.

JOURNEY FROM LITTLE PAXTON TO BALDOCK,

THROUGH BIGGLESWADE.

Little Paxton to			
Cross Hall	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—Ram.
Eaton Socon	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—Cock.
Wibaston	$1\frac{1}{4}$	4	
<i>Cross the River Ouse.</i>			
— — —			Temsford hall, Sir G. Payne, bart. L
— — —			Seat of Col. Payne. L
— — —			Seat of Peter Payne, esq. R
Temsford, T. G.	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	
— — —			Blunham closes, Mrs. Campbell.
— — —			Seat of Francis Pym, esq. L
— — —			Moggenhager-house, Godfrey Thornton, esq. L
— — —			Sandy Place, Sir Phillip Monnoux, esq. L
— — —			Seat of Rev. Mr. Monnoux. L
Girtford	$2\frac{1}{4}$	9	Inn—King's Arms.
Beeston Cross	1	10	

Lower Caldecote	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	
Cross the River			
<i>Ivil</i>			
BIGGLESWADE	$1\frac{1}{2}$	13	Seat of General Barnet.
— — —			Stretton Park, Charles Bar-
			net, esq.
Bleak Hall	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{3}{4}$	
BALDOCK	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$20\frac{1}{2}$	Inn—White Horse.

END OF THE ITINERARY.



A
CORRECT LIST OF ALL THE FAIRS
IN
BEDFORDSHIRE.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Amphill</i>—May 4, Nov. 30, cattle.</p> <p><i>Bedford</i>—First Tuesday in Lent, April 21, July 5, August 21, October 11, Dec. 19; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Biggleswade</i>—Feb. 13, Saturday in Easter week, Whit-Monday, Aug. 2, Nov. 8; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Dunstable</i>—Ash-Wednesday, May 22; a great horse fair. August 12, Nov. 12; cattle.</p> <p><i>Elstow</i>—May 14, 15, Nov. 5, 6; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Harrold</i>—Tuesday before May 12, Tuesday before July 5, Tuesday before Oct. 10; cattle.</p> <p><i>Ichwell</i>—April 5; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Leighton Buzzard</i>—Feb. 5, Whit Tuesday, July 26, Oct. 24; cattle. Second Tuesday in April; a shew</p> | <p>of horses and all sorts of cattle.</p> <p><i>St. Leonard's, near Bedford</i>—Nov. 17; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Luton</i>—April 18, Oct. 18; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Odell</i>—Thursday in Whit-week; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Potton</i>—Third Tuesday in January; a large horse fair. Last Tuesday in April, First Tuesday in July, Tuesday bef. Oct. 29; cattle in general.</p> <p><i>Shefford</i>—January 23, Easter Monday, May 19, Oct. 10; cattle.</p> <p><i>Silsoe</i>—May 12, Sept. 21; cattle of all sorts.</p> <p><i>Toddington</i>—April 25, first Monday in June, Sept. 4, Nov. 2, Dec. 16; cattle.</p> <p><i>Woburn</i>—Jan. 1; horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. March 23, July 13, Sept. 25: cattle.</p> |
|--|--|

A LIST OF
THE PRINCIPAL WORKS
That have been Published in Illustration of the
Topography and Antiquities
Of Bedfordshire.

“Magna Britannia, being a concise Topographical Account of the several counties of Great Britain, by the Rev. Daniel Lysons, A. M. F. R. S. F. A. and L. S. and Samuel Lysons, Esq. F. R. S. and F. A. S. Keeper of his Majesty's Records in the Tower, 1st volume. 1806.

The first volume of Messrs. Britton and Brayley's Beauties of England and Wales.

Collections towards the History and Antiquities of Bedfordshire, containing the “Parishes of Puddington, Luton, and Dunstable,” 4to. 1782. with plates.

“An Historical Account of the parish of Wymington, by Oliver St. John Cooper,” 4to. 1785.

“An Historical Account of the parish of Odell, by Oliver St. John Cooper,” 4to. 1787.

The above Works are contained in the Bibliotheca Topographica.

“A short yet a true and faithful Narration of the fearful fire that fell in the towne of Woburne, the 13th September. 1595,” London, 12mo. by Thomas Wilcocks.”

In the Philosophical Transactions, No. 379, is Mr. Holloway's Account of the Fullers' Earth Pits; and in No. 486, Mr. Ward's Remarks on a Roman *Tessera*, found at Market Street.

Pennant's Tour from Chester to London contains an Account of Dunstable, Woburn, Ampthill Park, Wrest, Luton, and a few other places, 4to. 1782. Some particulars of Woburn and Dunstable may also be found in Bray's Tour, 1783. An antique coffin and Roman inscription found at Woburn Abbey are described in the Gentleman's Magazine, April 1749.

In

In Carter's Antiquities are some etchings of the architectural ornaments, &c. of Dunstable Priory.

Jefferey's published an actual survey of this county, in 8 sheets, on a scale of two inches to a mile. Many errors in this map are corrected, and several additions made, in a *New Map* of the county, divided into hundreds, and published in Smith's "*New English Atlas*," January 1801.

Views of the Priors of Bedford, Dunstable, and Chicksand, of Harewood Nunnery, and Warden Monastery, have been engraved by Messrs. Bucks; the remains of the tower at Luton by Rooker, from a drawing by P. Sandby, published in the Virtuoso's Museum; a plan of Wrest House, Gardens, &c, by G. Rocque, 1735; and a view of Bedford Bridge, drawn by J. Walker, and engraved by Medland, in the Copper-plate Magazine, Vol. II.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD.

BOUNDARIES, SITUATION, AND EXTENT.

THE county of Bedford is bounded on the north and north-east by Northamptonshire ; on the east by Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire, and on the west by Buckinghamshire, and part of Northamptonshire.

In its greatest length it is about 32 miles, and in breadth 22 ; and according to the author of the general view of the agriculture of this county, its circumference 145 miles, inclosing an area of 307 acres.

ANCIENT HISTORY.

Bedfordshire and the adjoining counties of Buckingham and Hertford, were anciently inhabited by the Cattruchlani, or Casii, whose chief Cassivellaunus, or Cassibelin, was unanimously chosen by the Britons to lead their armies against Julius Cæsar, upon his invasion of their country.

During the government of the Romans this county formed part of *Britannia Superior*, afterwards of *Britannia Prima*, and upon the last division of the island, it was included in the division called *Flavia Caesariensis*.

It was many years after the Romans had abandoned Britain before the inhabitants of this county submitted to the Saxons ; but in a great battle fought near Bedford in the year 571 they were subdued by the brother of Clawlen, king of the West Saxons ; and their county was afterwards made part of the kingdom of Mercia. About 200 years after the Saxons had been in possession the Danes began to invade this island, and in the reign of Edward the Elder (son of King Alfred), this county frequently became the scene of action in the wars between that victorious monarch and the invaders.

In the year 919 this monarch came to Bedford, and staid there four weeks, receiving the submission of all the neighbouring country. In 921 the Danes seized Temesford now Tempsford, and stationed themselves there. In an excursion from this place they attacked the town of Bedford, but were repulsed with great slaughter. Their fortress at Tempsford was, however, destroyed during the same summer by King Edward, who put their king, and a great number of his nobles, to death. In 1010 the Danish army burnt Bedford and Tempsford. The next year this county submitted to the dominion of the Anglo-Saxon king Ethelred.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. Bedfordshire was one of the first counties that declared for the parliament, being within that district known by the name of the Eastern Associates. It is observed by Lord Clarendon that Bedfordshire was one of the counties in which the king had no visible party, nor one fixed quarter.

The same author informs us that in October 1643, Prince Rupert was sent by the king into Bedfordshire, at the head of a strong party of horse and foot. With this force the prince surprised and took Bedford, which was occupied as a strong post by the enemy. This expedition was principally designed to countenance Sir Lewis Dyves, whilst he fortified himself at Newport Pagnell, where he hoped to fix a garrison; none of the subsequent military transactions appear to have been in any way connected with this county.

CLIMATE.

The air of this county is mild and salubrious. The face of the country is agreeably diversified by hill and dale, and the scenery much enlivened by the steeples of churches.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers in this county are the *Ouse* and the *Ivel*. The former enters this county on the west

west side of it, running out of Buckinghamshire, between the villages of Brayfield and Turville ; from whence it passes between Carlton and Harold, between Odel and Chillington, near Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Bletsoe, Milton-Ernest, and Oakley, and after a devious course through a number of fine meadows, to which its waters give beauty and fertility, passes through Bedford, where it becomes navigable ; from thence it takes an eastward direction near Goldington, Willington, Barford, Tempsford, Roxton, Little Barford, and Eaton-Socon, and at length quits the county, at St. Neot's, on the confines of Huntingdonshire. The principal bridges over the Ouse are Carlton, Radwell, Stafford-bridge near Oakley, Bromham, Bedford, Barford, and Tempsford. The great road from London to Glasgow passes over the last mentioned bridge.

The river Ouse is remarkable for the slowness of its motion, and for the many windings it makes in its short course of about 45 miles. It divides the county in two parts, and in a wet season is liable to sudden and great inundations. In the year 1256 the town of Bedford suffered great injury from the overflowing of this river, and again in 1570. The Cambridgeshire proverb, of "the bailiff of Bedford is coming," mentioned by Fuller, alludes to the inundations of the Ouse, a most rapacious distrainer of hay and cattle.

The river Ouse abounds with a variety of freshwater fish, as pike, perch, bream, chub, bleak, crayfish, fine eels, dace, roach, and gudgeon.

The river Ivel rises near Baldock, in Hertfordshire, and enters this county near Stotfold, not far from Arlesay, after receiving a small stream called Hiz, it passes, near Henlow, to Langford, it is there joined by another small river. At Biggleswade the Ivel becomes navigable, and passing from thence near Sandy and Blunham, it falls into the Ouse a little above Tempsford.

The principal bridges over the Ivel, are at Girtford (a hamlet of Sandy), and at Biggleswade.

The Ivel produces the same variety of fish as the Ouse, and of the same description ; it is particularly famous for gudgeons.

NAVIGABLE CANALS.

No navigable canal passes through this county, but the Grand Junction Canal passes close to its borders, in the neighbourhood of Leighton Buzard, and comes up to that town. It is in contemplation to make a canal from Leighton to join the Ouse at Bedford.

AGRICULTURE.

Soil.

The author of the General View of the Agriculture of this county, published by the Board of Agriculture, calculates that Bedfordshire contains 307,200 acres ; of these he computes 217,200 to be in open fields, common meadows, commons, and waste ; 68,100 in inclosed meadows, pasture, and arable ; and 21,900 of woodland.

Fuller gives a pretty correct general description of the soil of this county, by saying that it is deep clay, with a belt or girdle of sand about, or rather athwart, the body of it from Woburn to Potton. According to the author of the agricultural survey, there is every kind of soil and every mixture of soil in this county. He describes the prevailing soil of the north and west parts to be clay and strong loam, that of the south and east parts light loam, sand, gravel, and chalk. The chalk hills extend across the county from Hertfordshire to Buckinghamshire. From Dunstable to Woburn, the soil is various, chalk, clay, loam, and sand. At Houghton it is chalk on the high grounds, and black clay in the low lands. From Woburn to Newport Pagnell there is a great variety of soil ; for some miles it is quite a light sand, and then a gravel with some

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light loams. About Wanden or Wavendon the soil is chiefly sand.

The vale of Bedford is a very rich tract of land, the soil of which, being exceedingly fertile and well cultivated, produces abundant crops of fine wheat, barley, and turnips. The land on the north side of the vale is a strong clay; that on the south, though in general lighter, is still very productive. The natural fertility of the vale is much encreased, by the periodical overflowing of the river Ouse.

Mode of Management.

By the truly patriotic endeavours of the late Duke of Bedford, a laudable emulation has been excited among the farmers in the neighbourhood of Woburn, and other parts of the county, the good effects of which are already become visible.

The qualities of cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, &c. have been greatly improved by the introduction of the most celebrated breeds from other counties, and the melioration of the land has kept equal pace with the improvement of the cattle. In both departments the agricultural system of this county is rapidly advancing to perfection.

His grace the present duke follows the steps of of his late brother, in patronising experimental agriculture, and keeps up all the establishments which he formed with a view to that purpose. The park farm at Wobourn well deserves the attention of every man, who feels himself interested in the advancement of the science of agriculture. The farm-yard is replete with conveniences for abridging and expediting labour; besides barns, stables, fattening houses, &c. there is a mill for threshing, winnowing, grinding, and dressing wheat, &c. In another part is a small water-wheel, which gives motion to some ingenious machinery, for bruising malt and cutting straw into chaff. The water is supplied by pipes, which convey it from ponds situated on the adjoining eminences. Most of these conveniences

niences were constructed, under the direction of Mr. Salmon, the duke's clerk of the works, the ingenious inventor of several useful improvements in agricultural implements.

An annual sheep-shearing was established by the late Duke of Bedford, and continued by the present, at which three or four hundred persons are generally assembled, to partake of the festive cheer which then prevails at Wobourn. The meeting is held about the middle of June, and continues for several days ; during this time experiments are made with newly-invented implements of agriculture, and premiums given for those which are judged to be of the most utility. Large premiums are also given to such persons, who in the course of the preceding year have expended the greatest sums in introducing valuable breeds of other counties, or who produce the best specimens of sheep, &c. bred in Bedfordshire ; smaller sums are distributed for the furtherance of beneficial practices in husbandry.

Lord Ossory, Mr. Whitbread, and many other private gentlemen, add their influence and example towards the improvement of the agriculture of the county of Bedford, so that throughout the whole of the cultivated part of it, it may be generally observed that with respect to management of the land, the best systems universally obtain, and with respect to the live stock of the county, it consists of all the various kinds of the most improved breeds, as they are adapted to the nature of the land upon which they are reared.

The parish of Sandy near Northill, is much noted for its gardens ; there are upwards of two hundred acres of land, occupied by nearly as many gardeners, who supply the whole country for many miles with vegetables, from Hertford to the metropolis. Their soil is a rich black sand, two or three feet deep. Carrots they sow about Lady-day, upon ground dug one spit deep, they hoe them very carefully
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three times ; and the work by the day comes to nearly two pounds per acre for the three hoeings, according to the goodness of the crop. They set them out about eight or ten inches, from plant to plant, and get, on a medium, a crop of two hundred bushels upon an acre. Parsnips they cultivate exactly in the same manner, but the product never equals that of carrots, by fifty or sixty bushels. The price of carrots vary from eighteen-pence to six-shillings per bushel, but the former price is very low. Potatoes they plant at the same time : twenty bushels plant an acre, at the distance of about one foot every way ; they hoe them three times, but not at all before they come up, as is practised in some counties. They reckon the Midsummer dun sort to yield the best ; a middling crop is two hundred and fifty bushels per acre ; they always manure for them, either with dung or ashes, about twenty loads, but ashes they prefer.

Of onions they sow vast quantities ; the time about a fortnight before Lady-day ; they hoe and weed them always five times, at the expence of about four pounds per acre, and set them out six inches asunder. The average crop is about two hundred bushels, the price varying from two to six shillings a bushel. They always manure for them with great care.

These gardeners give from two pounds to five pounds rent per acre, for their land, and in some instances considerably more. It is, as we have above observed, a rich loose black sand, of a good depth, and very favourably protected from cold winds by several considerable hills. It is a curious, and a very pleasing sight, to behold crops of onions, potatoes, French-beans, and even whole fields of cucumbers, intermixed with crops of wheat, barley, turnips, &c.

Woad (*Isatis Tinctoria*) was formerly universally cultivated in this county ; at present there is none to
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be found in it. The seeds of this plant, are sown every year, and the old woad plucked up, unless it is intended to be saved for seed. It is sown about the beginning of *March*, and cropt about the middle of *May* following, as the leaves come up. It is best in quality in a fair and dry summer, but most in quantity in a moist one. Then they crop it four or five times, according as it comes up; the first crop is best; every crop after is worse in order, and the last worst of all. As soon as it is cut it is carried to the woad mill, and ground as small as it can be until it becomes fit to ball. When it is balled, they lay the balls on hurdles to dry, and when it is perfectly dry they grind them to powder in the mill as small as possible; thus ground they throw it upon a floor, and water it, which they call *couching*, and let it smoak and heat, turning it every day until it be perfectly dry and mouldy, which they call *silvering*. When it is silvered they weigh it by the hundred, and bag it, putting two hundred weight in a bag, and so send it as fit for sale to the dyers, who try how it will dye and set the price accordingly: the best woad is usually worth 18*l.* per ton. Three hundred acres were lately let for the cultivation of woad at 7*l.* per acre at Tyrringham and Lathbury in Buckinghamshire.

With the tincture of this plant the ancient Britons were wont to dye their bodies, that they might appear more terrible to their enemies. The *Romans* called this herb *Vitrum*, witness *Cæsar*, *Vitruvius*, *Mela*, *Pliny*, and *Marcellus Empyricus*; which word being manifestly an interpretation of *Glastum*, it appears that *Glassa* or *Glasse* signified the same thing among the ancient Britons that it does among us, and not a blue colour, as Mr. Camden tells us, as it now does among the Welch. Why the Britons should call this herb *Glasse*, we know no better reason than because it resembles some kind of glass in colour, which we know hath often a tincture of blue
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in it; whence also a dilute blue is called *Color hyalinus*.

MINES AND MINERALS.

There are no mines in this county, nor any great abundance of fossils, either native or extraneous.—A gold mine is said to have been discovered at Pol-lux Hill in this county, about the year 1700, which was seized for the king, and granted by lease to some refiners; who, though they produced gold from the ore, found the quantity so small, that it was not equal to the expence of separation. Woodward, in his History of Fossils, mentions “a mass of shining yellow talc, with a yellow matter mixed with it,” as having been found at this place, which probably was the substance mistaken for gold.

Cornua Ammonis, and other kinds of shells, are found in the stratum of stone in the Toternhoe quarries, and great abundance of petrified wood, together with griphites, belemnites, &c. under the stratum of fuller’s earth at Aspley.

There are several mineral springs in this county, but none of them have acquired much celebrity: the springs enumerated are at Barton; Bedford, (near the Friars); Cupwell, at Bletsoe (near the Falcon); Poplar Well, at Blunham (near Barford bridge; Bromham (near Web’s-Lane); Bushmead; Clapham; Cranfield; Hulcot; Milton Ernest; two at Odell; Chadwell at Pertenhall; a well called Ochres, at Resely; Selsoe (at a farm called New Inn); Turvey in Dovehouse Close; and the spring which supplies the cold bath in Wrest Gardens.

The Fuller’s Earth Pits, in the vicinity of Wobourn, have been in general described as being in this county, but this is a mistake; they being certainly in Buckinghamshire, in the parish of Wavendon or Wandon, as it is commonly called. They are two miles north of Woburn, and about one furlong on the western side of the Northampton road.

The more ancient pit, it is true, is in the county of

of Bedford, in the parish of Aspley, which adjoins that of Wandon; but this has been disused for upwards of a century. It has large trees growing in it, and is now become the secure residence of the cunning fox, who in its mazy and intricate recesses finds a safe retreat.

“ From the surface, for about six yards depth, there are several layers of sands; all reddish, but some lighter coloured than others, under which there is a thin stratum of red sand-stone, which they break through; and then, for the depth of seven or eight yards more, there is sand again, after that they come to the fuller’s earth; the upper layer of which, being about a foot deep, they call the *cledge*; and this is by the diggers thrown by as useless, by reason of its too great mixture with the neighbouring sand, which covers, and has insinuated itself among it; after which they dig up the earth for use, to the depth of about eight feet more, the matter whereof is distinguished into several layers, there being commonly about a foot and a half between one horizontal fissure and another. Of these layers of fuller’s earth, the upper half, where the earth breaks itself, is tinged red; as it seems by the running of the water from the sandy strata above; and the part they call the *crop*, betwixt which and the *cledge* above-mentioned is a thin layer of matter, not an inch in depth, in taste, colour, and consistency, not unlike to *Terra Japonica*. The lower half of the fuller’s earth they call the *wall earth*; this is untinged with that red above-mentioned, and seems to be the more pure and fitter for fulling; and underneath all is a stratum of white rough stone, of about two foot thick, which, if they dig through, as they very seldom do, they find sand again, and there is an end of their works.

“ One thing is observable in the site of this earth, which is, that it seems to have every where a pretty equal horizontal level; because they say, that when
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the sand ridges at the surface are higher, the fuller's earth lies proportionably deeper.

“ The perpendicular fissures are frequent, and the earth in the strata, besides its apparent distinction into layers, like all other kinds of matter, by reason of its peculiar unctuousness, or the running of the adjacent sand imperceptibly among it, breaks itself into pieces of all angles and sizes.

“ Fullers earth, is a thing of great service and importance ; one main property of it is to imbibe oil, grease, and other like unctuous matter ; it is that property that renders this earth so useful in the cleansing woollen cloth. Every body conversant in rural affairs, must needs know how frequently tar is of necessity employed, as also grease and tallow, in the external affections and diseases of sheep ; and besides, their wool cannot be worked, spun or wove into cloth, unless it be well oiled and greased ; all which unctuous matter must be taken forth again out of the cloth before it can be worn ; nor is any thing yet known so serviceable to that purpose as this earth ; and as the fuller's earth of England is got in great plenty, so it very much exceeds any yet discovered abroad in goodness, which indeed is one great reason why the English surpass all other nations in the woollen manufacture ; and to preserve the benefit of this to the country, and secure it from the usurpation of foreigners, the exportation of English fuller's earth is strictly prohibited by act of parliament.”

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

The county of Bedford is divided into the nine following hundreds : viz. Manshead, Flit, Willey. Wixamtree, Stodden, Barford, Biggleswade, Clifton, and Redburnstoke. These hundreds contain nine market towns : Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Harold, Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Potton, and Woburn.

Bedfordshire is in the diocese of Lincoln, and is under

under the jurisdiction of an archdeacon, and is divided into six deaneries : viz : Bedford, Clopham, Dunstable, Eaton, Fleete, and Shefford, containing 121 parishes.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF BEDFORDSHIRE.

Journey from Higham Ferrers to Hitchin; through Bedford.

We enter the county of Bedford, near Wymington, about three miles south-east from Higham Ferrers. On the right of our road is the village of WYMINGTON, in the hundred of Willey, and deanery of Clopham. The manor belonged to Alured de Lincoln, whose descendants continued to hold it for a considerable time. In the year 1713 it became the property of Major General Livesey, and is now in severalties amongst his representatives.

The parish Church is a very elegant Gothic structure, founded by John Curteys, who was lord of the manor, and mayor of the staple at Calais, in the fourteenth century. It appears from the inscription on his tomb, that he died in the year 1301. The brasses for himself and his lady are in good preservation. They are fixed on a slab of black marble, under Gothic canopies. There are also in the chancel brasses of Sir Thomas Bromflete, cup-bearer to Henry V. who died in 1430, and his wife Margaret daughter of Sir Edward St. John, and heiress of the Lord of Vesci.

According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in 1801, the parish then contained 36 houses, and 226 inhabitants.

Puddington, the adjoining parish, anciently belonged to Reginald Damartin, Earl of Boloigne, from whose heirs it was taken by King Henry III. in 1227, and granted to Isolda de Dover, till such time as the king should think fit to restore it. The manor at present belongs to Richard Orlebar, Esq. whose

whose seat, HINWICK HOUSE, is situated in this parish, and was erected in the year 1710. The site of the ancient manor-house, which appears to have been castellated, is at present occupied as a farm.

HINWICK HALL, at a short distance from Mr. Orlebar's was formerly the seat of General Livesay, who died in 1717, and lies buried in Puddington Church. It is now the residence of Mr. Wagstaff, a descendant, in the female line, from General Livesay's brother. In the library at the house there is a *Cartulary* of the priory of canons at Ashby.

In the parish Church there are several handsome monuments; among which is that of General Livesay above-mentioned.

The whole of this parish is inclosed, and according to the returns under the population act in 1801, then contained 70 houses and 415 inhabitants.

The small parish of FARNDISH adjoining Puddington on the west, has nothing particularly interesting. It is inclosed, and is computed to contain about 672 acres.

The parish Church of SOULDROP, the next village we pass through, is a modern edifice, having been lately rebuilt, except the spire, which being situated on high ground, is seen at a considerable distance.

The village of MELCHBORN, about two miles, to the left of our road, in the hundred of Stoddon and deanery of Eaton, situated near the borders of Northamptonshire, had formerly a market on Friday, and a fair upon the feast of Saint Mary Magdalen, which were granted to the knight's hospitallers in the year 1264.

Leland, who was a native of Melchborn, speaks of the preceptory here as "a right fair place, of square stones standing much upon pillered vaulters of stone, with goodly gardens, orchards, and ponds, and a parke thereby." According to him the preceptory was an ancient structure; but he says that the hall was built by Sir William Weston, the last

prior of the knight's hospitallers. Upon the Dissolution the preceptory was valued at 24*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.* per annum, and in 1558, granted by Queen Elizabeth to the first earl of Bedford.

The present mansion-house appears to have been erected during the reign of King James or Charles I. The front has been modernised. It has been for many years the seat of the noble family of St. John, and since they left Bletsoe, their chief residence, the gardens have been very much improved by the present Lord St. John, who has erected several hot-houses and conservatories for the culture of exotics.

The parish Church, which was modernised and fitted up by the late Mr. Whitbread, contains several ancient monuments. Among others a brass plate in memory of Robert Pavely, Esq. who died in 1377. Lord St. John presented an organ to the parish for the church in 1800, and is at the expence of maintaining an organist.

About two miles on the right of our road, is the village of SHARNBROOK, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham. The parish Church is a handsome Gothic structure with a spire. It contains several monuments in memory of the families of Bottelet, and Antonie, lords of the manor.

COLESWORTH HOUSE, in this parish, the seat of William Lee Antonie, Esq. M. P. was principally built by John Antonie, Esq. chief clerk of the court of King's Bench. The wings were added by Mr. Lee, during his son's minority. It is now one of the most elegant mansions in the county.

The village of ODELL, about two miles west from Sharnbrook, situated in the hundred of Willey, and deanery of Clopham, about ten miles north-west from Bedford, on the borders of Northamptonshire, was anciently a market town. The charter for its market, to be held on Thursdays, was granted to William Fitzwarren, the lord of the manor, in 1222.

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It was afterwards confirmed in 1242, but has long been disused.

There is still an annual fair held here on the Thursday and Friday in Whitsun-week.

This village was the seat or barony belonging at the time of the Norman survey to Walter Flandrensis, whose descendants were called De Wahul. The manor is now the property of Thomas Alston, Esq. who has a seat in the parish.

Odell Castle is described by Leland, who visited this county in the reign of Henry VIII. as "strange ruins belonging to the lord Bray." It stands on an eminence, which commands a beautiful view of the river Ouse, and the surrounding country. Very little remains of the old building, the present house is chiefly modern. The south front was added by Lady Wolstenholme, relict of Sir Rowland Alston, who died in the year 1698.

The parish Church is a handsome Gothic building, and contains several monuments to the memory of the family of Alston. The chantry roll for Bedfordshire, mentions that there was before the Reformation, an endowment for the maintenance of a lamp in this church, and for a *drinking*, or church ale.

About a mile from Odell, is HAROLD, a small market town, situated on the Ouse, about nine miles from Bedford. The market is held on Thursday, but is very inconsiderable.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, this parish then contained 155 houses, and 763 inhabitants.

There was a priory at Harold, founded by Samson Le Fort, in the year 1150, in honour of St. Peter, for canons and nuns of the order of St. Nicholas of Arrouasia, but it was afterwards occupied by a prioress and a few nuns of the order of St. Austin's. At its suppression its revenues were valued at 40l. 18s. 2d. clear yearly value. The site was granted in

1544 to William Lord Parr, and afterwards in 1555, to John Cheney and William Duncombe. It is at present a farm-house, the property of Lady Lucas. The only part of the conventual building which remains, is the refectory, now a barn, and known by the name of the Hall Barn.

The parish Church is a handsome Gothic structure, with a fine spire, containing several monuments in memory of the families of Boteler and Alston, one to the memory of Mrs. Joliffe, daughter of Lord Curve, and another in memory of Mrs. Mead, the widow of Dr. Mead, the celebrated physician, who resided at a large house near the Church, at present the seat of Robert Garstin, Esq.

There is a bridge over the Ouse at Harold, with a long causeway.

BLETSOE, a small village on the left of our road, about six miles before we reach Bedford, was with the manor, part of the large possessions of Hugh de Beauchamp, at the time of the Norman survey. It afterwards came to the family of Patshul. It at present belongs to Henry Beauchamp, Lord St. John.

The greater part of the mansion-house was pulled down many years since, and the remaining part has been converted into a farm-house. It appears to have formed one side of a quadrangular building. Some remains of the ancient castellated mansion are plainly discernible near the house.

There is a monument in the north aisle of the parish Church (which is the burial place of the noble family of St. John), with the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady, intended for Sir John St. John, father of Oliver, the first Lord St. John, whom he lived to see created a peer. Upon this monument is the following Latin inscription:

“ Infans, vir, Senior semper clarissimus Heros :
Principibus puerum primis eduxit ab annis,
Richmundæ Comitissæ, sui matertera alumni,

Inde

Inde vir effectus, Regis pervenit ad aulam
 Henrici octavi, geminas hoc tempore natas,
 Rex habuit quibus ambabus lectissimus heros,
 Huic datus est custos, datus est camerarius illi.
 O quoties illius opem bello Anglia sensit ;
 Nunc vesana fremit Lincolnia, nunc fremit ingens
 Gallia bis hujus nota virtute subacta ;
 Mota sub Edwardo pendit Norfolcia Sexto,
 Mittetur huic inter proceres ; quos inter et omnes
 Vel fuit hic primus vel nulli Marte secundus.
 Denique jam senis saturatus honoribus annis
 Reginae electus camerarius Elizabethæ,
 Occidet et prolem similem virtute reliquit."

There is a monument in the same aisle to the memory of Frances, countess of Bolingbroke, daughter of William, duke of Newcastle.

In the parish of THURLEY, or Thurleigh, about a mile east from Bletsoe, there are the remains of an ancient mansion, now a farm-house, called Blackburn Hall, alias Blackbull Hall, within a moated site ; it is at present the property of the Rev. Hugh Wade Grey.

Near the church is a circular mount, with an entrenchment, called Bury Hill, which was most probably the site of an ancient mansion, belonging to the lords of the manor of Thurleigh.

About five miles from Bedford is MILTON ERNEST, a small village, in the hundred of Stodden, and deanery of Clopham.

In the parish Church are several monuments in memory of the families of Turner and Rolt, formerly lords of the manor. Edmund Turner, Esq. of Panton in Lincolnshire, is at present the patron of the vicarage, which was munificently endowed in the year 1693, by his ancestor, Sir Edmund Turner, with the great tithes and a parsonage house.

An alms-house was founded in this village by the above-mentioned Sir Edmund Turner, in 1695, for six poor persons, which he endowed with lands in

Milton, Clopham, and Oakley, now let for 34l. per annum.

At RADWELL, a hamlet in the parish of Felmarsham, about a mile on the right of our road, six miles north-east from Bedford, there is a bridge over the Ouse. The manor-house is a very ancient building, and has in the window of an old hall, the arms of the Radwells, the former lords of the manor, impaling sable, a chevron between three lion's heads, erased argent, crowned, or. (Beauchamp.)

The west end of Felmarsham Church affords a curious specimen of the earliest Gothic architecture. There is a very ancient and richly ornamented wooden skreen, between the nave and the chancel in this church.

The church of CHILLINGTON, the adjoining parish, is situated, at a distance from the village, upon a hill, from whence there is a fine view of Odell Castle, Harold, and the river Ouse.

In the parish Church of CARLTON, a village, about a mile west of Chillington, on the borders of Buckinghamshire, there is an epitaph which records a remarkable instance of long incumbency. It is to the following effect :

“ To the memory of Mr. Thomas Wills, who lived parson of Carlton and Chillington about threescore and ten years. He died the second of August 1642, aged above a hundred.”

There is a bridge over the Ouse in the parish of PAVINGHAM, on the right of our road, six miles north west from Bedford, called Stafford Bridge, with a causey of 36 arches, passable for carriages, but without a fence. The road over this bridge leads through OAKLEY, a small village, four miles north-west from Bedford, where the Duke of Bedford has a villa, at which he resided before he succeeded to the title.

In the parish Church, which is an ancient Gothic structure,

structure, there is an altar-tomb upon which is the effigies of one of the family of Reynes, in robes, with his arms and two other coats, under an ogie arch in the south wall.

About a mile and a half west from Oakley, is STEVENTON, where there was formerly a castle built by Baldwin Wake in 1281 ; of this structure which was the residence of several noble families, there are at present no remains. The manor is now the property of Thomas Alston, Esq.

Seven acres of land were given before the Reformation to the church of Steventon, for a drinking or church ale.

There is an ancient cross in the centre of the village, consisting of a tall shaft, with a capital, placed on an ascent of several steps.

The village of CLAPHAM, upon our road, about two miles before we reach Bedford, was formerly a chapelry to Oakley above-mentioned, and it is remarkable that although it has long been a distinct parish, the inhabitants still bury their dead there.

The manor belongs to the Earl of Ashburnham ; but the old mansion house has been for many years occupied as a farm-house.

BEDFORD,

The county town, and the most considerable both with respect to size and population, is situated on the river Ouse, which divides it in two parts, crossing in the direction of east and west.

Bedford is a place of great antiquity, and is supposed by some writers to have been the *Lactidorum* of Antoninus ; but Camden objects to this on the ground that the town is not situated on any Roman road, neither have any Roman coins ever been found here.

In the time of the Saxons it was called *Bedanford*, or rather, according to Dr. Salmon, *Bedicanford*, words signifying the fortress on the ford. In these times it was undoubtedly a place of considerable consequence,

consequence as it was chosen by Offa, the powerful king of the Mercians, for his burial place. His bones were interred in a small chapel, which being situated on the brink of the river was afterwards undermined and swept away, by the floods, during an inundation.

A decisive battle was fought here between Cuthwolfe the Saxon, and the Britons in the year 572. The Britons were defeated, and obliged to deliver up several of their towns to the conqueror.

According to Camden, Edward the Elder repaired Bedford after it had been ruined during the Danish wars, and built a new town on the south side of the river called Mikes-gate.

In the year following the Danes were repulsed by the townsmen of Bedford; but in 1010 they were more successful, and burned the town.

After the Conquest King William Rufus gave the barony of Bedford to Pain de Beauchamp, who built a strong castle on the north-east side of the town. This structure was surrounded by a vast entrenchment of earth, as well as a lofty and thick wall. "While it stood," says Camden, "there was no storm of civil war which did not burst upon it." In 1137 Bedford Castle sustained a siege against King Stephen and his army. It appears that Milo de Beauchamp, and his brothers, hearing that the king had bestowed their sister in marriage, together with the whole barony of Bedford, which had belonged to Simon de Beauchamp their father, unto Hugh Pauper, brother to the Earl of Leicester, garrisoned the castle of Bedford, then a fort of great strength, environed with a mighty rampart of earth, and a high wall, within which was an impregnable tower: so that the king not being able to gain it by assault, brought his army before it, and, after a long and hard siege, obtained it by surrender through the mediation of his brother Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester,

chester, Milo de Beauchamp and his soldiers marching out upon honourable terms. Camden, on the contrary, observes that the king took the fortress with great slaughter.

During the contest between the barons and King John in 1216, William de Beauchamp, being then possessed of the barony of Bedford, took part against the king, and delivered the castle up to the former. It was however very shortly afterwards wrested from the barons by Faukes de Brent, to whom it was given with the barony, by the king, as a reward for his services.

According to Matthew Paris, Faukes de Brent, rebuilt and fortified the castle, for which purpose he pulled down the collegiate church of St. Paul ; and that an abbess of the neighbouring convent of Elstow hearing of his sacrilege, took the sword out of the hand of that saint's image, and would not replace it until justice had overtaken the offender. A charter of the first of Henry III. seems to exonerate Faukes de Brent from this charge, for by it a compensation is granted to the monks of Ravenham, for his father King John having ordered the church of St. Paul at Bedford, to them belonging, to be pulled down, when he caused the castle of Bedford to be fortified. It is certain, however, that Faukes de Brent, having been guilty of numerous depraved and villainous acts, in the surrounding country, and presuming upon the impregnable strength of the castle, set all law and authority at defiance, and having been fined by the king's justices itinerant at Dunstable, in the year 1224, for his various outrages and depredations upon the property of his less powerful neighbours, he sent a party of soldiers who seized Henry de Braybroke, one of the king's justices, and treating him with great barbarity brought him prisoner to the castle of Bedford. The king highly indignant at these repeated atrocities, marched to Bedford in person, attended by Stephen Langton,

ton, archbishop of Canterbury, and the principal peers of the realm. On this occasion the archbishop and abbots granted a voluntary aid to the king, and two labourers from every hide of their lands, to work the engines employed in the siege.

Camden has extracted from the chronicle of Dunstable, the following account of the siege, written by an eye witness : “ On the east side was on petraria, and two mangonella, which daily battered the tower ; on the west side, two mangonellas, ruined the old tower ; and one mangonella on the south, and one on the north, made two breaches in the walls opposed to them. Besides these, there were two wooden machines, raised above the height of the tower and castle, for the cross-bow men and scouts. Also many others in which the cross-bow men and slingers lay in ambush. There was also a machine, called a cat, under which the miners had free passage to sap the walls of the tower and castle. The castle was taken by four assaults. In the first was taken the Barbican ; in the second the outer bail ; in the third the wall near the old tower was overthrown by the miners, through the breach of which they, with great danger, made themselves masters of the inner bail. On the fourth assault the miners set fire to the tower, and when the smoke burst out and great cracks appeared in the tower, the besieged surrendered. The sheriff was ordered to demolish the tower, and outer bail. The inner, after it was dismantled, and the ditches filled up all round, was left for William de Beauchamp to live in. The stones were given to the canons of Newnham and Chaldwell, and the church of St. Paul at Bedford.” The men of Dunstable made the second assault, in which the outer bail was taken, for which service they had a considerable share of the plunder. Many lives were lost by the fall of the tower. The siege lasted sixty days, during which the besieged disputed the ground by inches. He was not in the castle at the time of
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its capture, but his brother William, and 24 of his officers, were taken and executed. Culmo, another brother, received the king's pardon. Faukes himself hastened to Bedford to crave for mercy, under the protection of the bishop of Coventry, and was pardoned, on condition of being banished the realm. After this the castle was dismantled, and the ditches filled up.

The barony of Bedford was restored to William de Beauchamp, who, according to Leland, was descended from the original builder; and leave was given him to erect a mansion on the site of the castle, and to inclose it with a wall not exceeding the height of that which belonged to the second ward, and to be without any battlement.

The site of the castle forms a close divided by a lane. No remains of the fabric can now be discovered, but the vestiges of the castle are to be seen, at the back of the Swan inn, and the whole circuit may be traced; the banks on two sides are very bold. On the keep is a bowling-green, formerly much frequented by gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. In digging for stone part of the foundations was discovered, as well as several pieces of coin, and a spear of enormous size.

The site of the castle, with the Swan inn, is now the property of his grace the Duke of Bedford.

Bedford is a borough and corporation by prescription. In the year 1166 Henry II. granted and confirmed by charter the town of Bedford to the burgesses, subject to the payment of 40l. per annum as a fee-farm rent to the crown. Their mercantile guild and ancient privileges were confirmed by the succeeding monarch, who also granted new privileges and immunities similar to those enjoyed by the burgesses of Oxford. Richard II. granted still more extended privileges, and among others a view of Frankpledge within the borough. In this monarch's charter the corporation are styled, the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses.

burgesses. In the reign of Edward I. the liberties of the town were seized by that monarch, the bailiffs having neglected to discharge the fee-farm rent. In the reign of Henry VI. the town being much decayed, many houses gone to ruin, and the trade of it brought low, and the usual issues discontinued, the inhabitants petitioned the king to shew them his grace, accordingly he granted that the yearly *ferm* should be remitted in part for a time. In the reign of Henry VII. it was permanently reduced, through the interposition of Sir Reginald Bray, then prime minister, to 20l. per annum, and afterwards to 16l. 5s. 8d. which rent is now payable to Lord Carteret and the Rev. John Pery.

The municipal government of the town is vested in a mayor, who is elected annually on the first Monday of September, recorder, deputy-recorder, and an indefinite number of aldermen, two bailiffs, and thirteen common-council men. The number of aldermen is necessarily uncertain, the office of mayor being always filled by a burgess, who has previously served the offices of bailiff and chamberlain, and who, immediately after the expiration of his mayoralty, becomes an alderman. The common-council are elected annually from among the burgesses, on the Wednesday before St. Matthew's day. The bailiffs, for the time being, are sheriffs of the borough and lords of the manor.

The last renewal of the charter of incorporation was in the reign of King James II. in whose time the mayor and aldermen were removed from their respective offices, by royal mandate, for neglecting to elect two burgesses to serve in parliament. The members were in consequence chosen by his Majesty's ministers.

The borough of Bedford sent representatives to parliament as early as the 23d of Edward I. The right of election was determined in 1690, to be in the burgesses, freemen, and inhabitants, householders

ers not receiving alms. The number of voters is nearly 1400. The mayor and bailiffs are the returning officers.

The population of Bedford has very much increased of late years. According to the returns under the act of parliament in 1801, there were then 783 inhabited houses, and 3948 inhabitants, of which 2221 were persons chiefly employed in trade, manufacture, or handicraft.

The principal manufacture of the town is lace, and this affords employment to great numbers of the lower classes. Children of four years of age are set down to it. It is the female poor that are principally engaged in lace-making, many of whom in the surrounding country are employed in this delicate manufacture. On certain days the persons appointed by the dealers collect the lace made at the different villages, and convey it to the London market.

An extensive trade is carried on in coals, which are brought by the Ouse from Lynn and Yarmouth. A considerable quantity of corn particularly barley, the growth of the rich tract of land which surrounds the town, is weekly sold in the market, and sent by water to Lynn.

The principal market is held on Saturday on the north side of the river. The Monday's market is held on the south side, and is chiefly for pigs and poultry. There are six annual fairs, viz. on the first Tuesday in Lent, April 21, Old Midsummer day, August 21, October 12, and December 19; besides these there is an annual fair held at St. Leonard's farm, on the 17th November.

Previous to the Conquest there was a collegiate church at Bedford, dedicated to St. Paul. Rohesia, wife of Pain de Beauchamp changed the prebendaries into canons regular, they were afterwards removed by Simon de Beauchamp to a new site in the neighbouring parish of Goldington, afterwards called Newnham, about a mile from Bedford, down the river.

The only remains of this religious house is a wall, inclosing the site ; at the corners of which are hills with ditches round them. At the Dissolution its revenues were estimated at 29*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* per annum.

Leland says “there were two hospitals in the suburbs of Bedford, the houses whereof and the chapels yet stand, both founded by the townsmen. St. John’s on the right hand, first coming in from the south to Bedford, and then on the other hand, a little aside is St. Leonard’s, the grey friers stand flat on the north-west of the town.”

The hospital of St. John the Baptist was founded in the year 1280 by Robert de Parys, for a master and two or more brethren priests, who were to pray for the souls of the founder, John St. John, Henry St. John, and John St. John, grandson of John; and likewise for the reception and support of decayed freemen of the town of Bedford. It appears by the surveys made of chantries and hospitals in the reign of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. that the hospital and parish church of St. John had been long incorporated, and that there was no minister in that parish with the cure of souls, but the master of this said hospital. The hospital consists at present of a master, who is rector of the church, and presented by the corporation, and ten poor men appointed by the master, they receive a weekly allowance of 9*d.* each. The ancient hall is still standing. The estate is held on lease under the master and co-brethren.

St. Leonard’s Hospital was situated on the south side of the town, and was founded sometime about the latter end of the thirteenth century, by a townsman of Bedford. An ancient record, dated in the year 1302, calls it “the poor house of St. Leonard, in which were six freres chapleynis wearing a religious habit.” At the Dissolution its revenues were valued at 46*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum. The site, which is
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in St. John's parish, is now a farm belonging to his grace the Duke of Bedford.

The hospital of Grey Friars was founded by Mabel Pateshull, lady of Bletsoe, before the year 1311. At the Dissolution the revenues of this monastery were estimated only at 3*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* clear yearly value. Its site was granted by Henry VIII. to John Gostwich, master of the horse, and is at present occupied by a farm-house, the property of the Earl of Ashburnham. There are some remains of the conventual buildings, which exhibit some vestiges of the cloisters. A barn adjoining to the house is said to have been the refectory.

Caldwell or Cawdwell Priory, about a quarter of a mile west of Bedford, was founded in the reign of King John by Simon Bauscot, alderman of Bedford, for brethren of the order of the holy cross or holy sepulchre, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At the time of its suppression, in the reign of Henry VIII. it was stated to be a priory of the order of Austin friars, and was then dedicated to St. John the baptist, and St. John the Evangelist. Its annual value was stated to be 109*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* In 1563 its site was granted to Thomas Leigh. It now belongs to George Livius, Esq. Traces of the conventual buildings may be seen in a field adjoining the farm-house.

There are at present five distinct parishes in the town of Bedford, each having a separate church. There are also several meeting-houses for dissenters of various denominations, and a chapel for Moravians ; adjoining this chapel is the house called the single sister's house, in which the single women of that persuasion live together.

St. Paul's Church is a handsome Gothic structure, with an octagonal stone spire, and is considered as the principal ornament of the town. " Simon de Beauchamp," says Leland, " lyeth afore the high altar

of St Paul's church, in Bedeford, with this epitaphie graven in brass, and set on a flat marble stone :

“ Under this marble lyeth Simon de Beauchamp,
Founder of Newenham.”

In the chancel of this church there is an altar-tomb with brass figures of Sir William Harper and his lady. Sir William, who died in 1574, was sometime lord mayor of London, and a great benefactor to this his native town.

The pulpit is of stone, ornamented with gilt tracery on a blue ground.

In the church yard is the tomb of “ Shadrach and Patience Johnson,” who had 24 children.

In 1697 Thomas Christie, Esq. presented the great tithes to the vicar of his church, and his successors, charged with the payment of one shilling each, to eight poor persons in the alms-houses built by him.

The churches of St. Mary, St. John, St. Peter, and St. Cuthbert, contain nothing remarkable. In the parish register of St. John, are entries of the burial of three nuns of Elstow, “ Dame Anne Preston, Dame Elizabeth Fox, and Dame Elizabeth Napier,” who died in 1557 and 1558.

The old independent meeting-house in Mill-lane, was originally established in the year 1656, under the ministry of John Gifford, who had been a major in the army of King Charles I. The celebrated John Bunyan was ordained co-pastor of this congregation in 1671, and continued in that situation until he died in 1688. The chair in which he used to sit is still preserved as a kind of relic in the vestry of the chapel.

Sir William Harper, alderman of London, above-mentioned, founded in the year 1556, the Free-school in Bedford, for the instruction of children of the town in grammar and good manners. The school house was rebuilt in 1767, when a statue of the founder

founder was placed in the front. The warden and fellows of New College, Oxford, are visitors of the school, and have the appointment of the master and usher's second master. The master's salary is 260*l.* with coals and candles; that of the second master is 160*l.* with the same allowance of fire and candle. The writing master has a salary of 80*l.* per annum.

For the support of this school Sir William Harper, by his deed dated the 22nd of April 1566, conveyed to the corporation thirteen acres and one rood of land, lying in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, which he had purchased for the sum of 180*l.* he also conveyed his late dwelling-house, &c. at Bedford. The revenues of these estates were also to be applied towards apportioning maidens of the town on their entrance into the marriage state.

In the year 1668, the corporation leased the whole of the lands in the parish of St. Andrew's Holborn, for the term of 41 years, at the yearly rent of 99*l.* In the year 1684, a reversionary lease was granted for the further term of 51 years, at the improved rent of 150*l.* In consequence of granting these leases a great number of houses were built, and the following streets covered the above-mentioned thirteen acres of meadow-land: Bedford Street, Bedford Row, Bedford Court, Princes Street, Theobald's Row, North Street, East Street, Lamb's Conduit Street, Queen Street, Eagle Street, Boswell Court, Green Street, Harper Street, Rishbell Court, Hand Court, Gray's Inn Passage, Three Cups Yard, &c. The annual rent from these buildings is now increased to more than 5,800*l.* and it is expected that in a few years it will amount to upwards of 7000*l.*

This extraordinary increase of revenue occasioned the trustees to apply to parliament for two several acts to regulate its disposal, and extend the objects of the charity. By the provisions contained in these

acts of parliament, the maintenance of the master and usher of the grammar School, and the maintenance of a master, and two ushers, to the English School, is provided. Three exhibitions of 40l. per annum are given to scholars from the Free school, either at Oxford or Cambridge, during the space of six years.

Eight hundred pounds per annum is appropriated for marriage portions to be given by lot in sums of 20l. each to 40 poor maidens of Bedford of good fame and reputation, not under 16 years of age, and not exceeding 50. They are to marry within two months after receiving the marriage portion, otherwise to forfeit it. The men to whom they are to be married must not be vagrants or persons of bad fame or reputation.

The sum of 300l. per annum is appropriated by the last act for the maintenance of 26 boys in an hospital or school of industry, and 700l. to be laid out in apprentice fees for 15 poor boys and five girls, to be chosen by lot.

The trustees have also been enabled to build alms-houses for ten poor men and the same number of women. The weekly allowance to each is 3s. and 40s. annually for clothing. If a poor man and his wife live together they are allowed to the amount of 5s. per week. One hundred pounds per annum is appropriated to be given in sums of 5l. each, to 20 poor girls upon their going out to service. The residue of the income is to be laid out in building and endowing more alms-houses, or building cottages to be let at low rents to the poor.

The school is situated near Saint Paul's Church. Over the door is a statue of the founder, carved in white marble, he is depicted in his robes as alderman; beneath is a Latin inscription to this effect:

“ Behold, Traveller, the bodily resemblance
Of Sir William Harper, Knight,

Of

Of this School,
Thus spacious and adorned,
The munificent founder.
The picture of his mind
Is delineated in the table of benefactions."

The Rev. Mr. Leith and others founded a Charity School, in the year 1737, for 20 children of the parishes of St. Paul and St. Cuthbert.

An Almshouse was erected by Thomas Christie, Esq. for eight poor persons, to whom he bequeathed 1s. each weekly to be paid out of the great tithes of St. Paul's.

Among the public buildings of the town we have to notice the Town-Hall, or Sessions House (in which are held the assizes for the county). It is situated in the area before St. Paul's Church, and was erected in 1753. It is a capacious and handsome structure.

The Town Gaol formerly stood on the bridge over the Ouse, and was taken down in 1765, after which a temporary gaol was fitted up under the town-hall, and afterwards a new gaol was built in St. Lloyd's, near the alms-houses. This being found inconvenient, was taken down, and another has been lately erected to the north-west of the town, near the road to Kettering; where a new County Gaol was also completed in the year 1801; towards the building of which the late Mr. Whitbread left a legacy of 500l. The prisoners have separate sleeping rooms; and the system of solitary confinement is occasionally adopted.

The Bedford House of Industry is a large and handsome brick building, to the north of the town. It was begun in the year 1794, and completed in 1796. It is fitted up with every necessary accommodation, and particular attention has been paid to the health as well as the comfort and convenience of its inhabitants. It is open for the reception of the poor of the five consolidated parishes, who are comfortably

bly fed from the profits of a flannel manufactory, established in the house upon an extensive scale.—

The good effects of this institution have already been felt in the reduction of the poor's rates.

The Bedford Infirmary is a handsome and appropriate building, lately erected in St. Mary's parish; it was opened for the reception of patients on the 13th of August 1803. Thirty-eight in-patients are its full complement. The late Mr. Whitbread bequeathed 4000*l.* towards this structure, and another sum of 4000*l.* towards its endowment. The Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Ossory, and the present Mr. Whitbread, and other of the nobility and gentry of the county, contributed liberally towards the building and its support, by annual subscription.

An act of parliament was obtained about three years ago, enabling the inhabitants of Bedford to pave and light the town, to build a new bridge, to pull down the butchers' shambles, and to build a new market-place, with a sessions-house above it, and a butter market on the site of the old gaol. This act has been in great part carried into effect, and a pent-house is now placed on the site of the old gaol, where the new market-house is hereafter to be erected.

The river Ouse, which runs through the town, was made navigable to Lynn in Norfolk, by act of parliament.

The barony of Bedford, consisting of several manors of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, was originally possessed by William de Beauchamp, a descendant of Hugh de Beauchamp, who attended William the Conqueror, upon his invasion of this country. William de Beauchamp died in the reign of Edward, and the barony was divided between his three daughters, Maud, wife of Roger de Mowbray, Ela wife of Baldwin Wake, and Beatrix wife of Thomas Fitzotes. In the reign of Henry the

the Third, John de Beauchamp, who had joined the rebellious barons, was slain in the field at the battle of Evesham.

The ancient family of *Beauchamp* were hereditary almoners to the kings of England, on the day of their coronation. At the coronation of Henry IV. this office, with its perquisites, was claimed by Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, as one of the coheirs of the family, by the marriage of his ancestor with Maud de Beauchamp, and by John Lord Latimer, as inheriting part of the barony, which passed in marriage with Maud daughter of Beatrix de Beauchamp, to the Boletorts. The claim of Lord Latimer was allowed, and Sir Thomas Grey, Knight, was appointed to represent Thomas de Mowbray, whose lands were then in the king's hands. They had a towel of fine linen prepared to put in the silver that was appointed to be given in alms : and likewise the distribution of the cloth that covered the pavement and floors from the door of the king's chamber, to the pulpit in Westminster abbey.

At the coronation of James the Second, the Earl of Exeter, Sir George Blundell, and Thomas Snag, Esq. as being seized of several parts of the barony of Bedford respectively, claimed the office of almoner ; which *for that time* was adjudged to the Earl of Exeter, with a saving right to the other two : but of the fees, the silver dish and the cloth in Westminster hall to the west door of the abbey church only was allowed.

A considerable portion of the barony of Bedford was purchased by the Duchess of Marlborough, and since by John Duke of Bedford. The manor of Bedford, which was formerly part of the barony, has been long vested in the corporation.

At ELSTOW, a considerable village, a mile and a half from Bedford, in the hundred of Redbornstoke, there was formerly an abbey of Benedictine nuns, founded by Judith Countess of Huntingdon, in
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the reign of William the Conqueror, to whom she was niece. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. At the Dissolution its revenues were valued at 284l. 12s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The site was granted in the year 1553 to Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe, a younger brother of the Earl of Sussex, who resided in the abbey-house, and died in 1566, as appears by an inscription on his monument over the altar in Elstow Church.

There are but small remains of the conventual buildings, excepting the church, which is a very fine structure, with a detached tower on the north-west. The north door is of Norman architecture, and has an arch, beautifully ornamented in the zig-zag manner. The three arches of the chancel are circular, and some of the columns are square and very massy. There is a small building, at the south-west corner of the church, with a vaulted roof, supported in the centre by an octagonal fluted column. In the church are several shields in stone, with the cross and memorials of the Passion. In the south aisle of the chancel is the tomb of Elizabeth Harway, the last abbess of Elstow, with her effigies in brass, placed there in her life-time, with blank spaces for the dates; there are also several memorials of the families of Crompton, Lovet, and Hillersdon, former owners of the manor.

A large mansion adjoining the church, now in ruins, was built by some of the Hillersdons. The greater part of it was pulled down a few years ago. The whole estate now belongs to Samuel Whitbread, Esq. M. P. whose father purchased it in 1792, of the daughters of the late Mr. Hillersdon.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, the parish of Elstow then contained 93 houses, and 475 inhabitants.

John Bunyan, the author of the celebrated theological romance, called "The Pilgrim's Progress," was born at Elstow in 1628. He was the son of a
brazier,

brazier, and his education was suitable to his extraction, being taught only to read and write. In his youth he was greatly addicted to vice ; and in 1645 he enlisted himself as a common soldier in the army of the parliament, in which station he behaved with the most undaunted courage.

After serving some time in the army, he married a young woman of the anabaptist persuasion, who so wrought upon him, that he soon became remarkably serious ; and having procured his discharge from the army, he followed the business of a brazier, to which he had been brought up by his parents.

He lived for some time in this character, during which he was particularly distinguished for his piety and sober life ; and in 1653 he was baptized, and admitted a member of the Baptist congregation at Bedford.

On the restoration of Charles II. he was apprehended for holding unlawful assemblies and conventicles, and being convicted was confined in Bedford gaol upwards of twelve years ; during which time he procured his subsistence by working nets, whilst his intervals were spent in writing his Pilgrim's Progress, and other religious performances.

In 1671 he was chosen pastor of the congregation at Bedford ; and in the reign of James II. when that prince published a declaration for liberty of conscience, Bunyan was enabled, by the contributions of his followers, to build in that town a public meeting house, of which he continued pastor during the remainder of his life.

In 1688 he went on a journey as far as Reading in Berkshire, in order to reconcile an offended father to his prodigal son ; but having caught a severe cold, it threw him into a fever, of which he died in London, on the 12th of August of the same year. He was buried in Bunhill fields, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory.

He was a tall strong-bodied man, but not corpulent.

lent. His appearance was rough and stern ; but his behaviour was mild and affable, and he was scrupulously just in all his actions. His works have certainly done great good ; and there is not, perhaps, a treatise on divinity in the English language, that has gone through more editions than his *Pilgrim's Progress*, which in every page discovers the ingenuity of the author.

About two miles from Bedford is CARDINGTON, a neat village, in the hundred of Wixhamtree. The Church contains several ancient monuments. On each side of the altar is a monument with an open arch in the Gothic style : that on the south side is in memory of Sir William Gascoigne. The other of Sir Gerrard Hervey, who died in 1638. This Sir Gerrard was knighted by the Earl of Essex, for his bravery at the siege of Cadiz ; he being the first man that entered the town.

There is also a tablet in memory of the celebrated philanthropist John Howard, Esq. who fell a victim to his exertions in the cause of humanity ; being seized with the plague at Cherson in Tartary, where he died January 21, 1794. He resided for some years at Cardington, in a house close to the churchyard, and in the year 1773 served the office of sheriff for the county.

In the year 1799 a very splendid monument was put up in this church to the memory of the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq. It was the last work of the deceased statuary Bacon, and esteemed one of his best. The principal represents Mr. Whitbread as a dying man, supported by Religion, who points to the glories of Heaven ; with the figure of Benevolence weeping at his feet. There are several other monuments of the Whitbread family, who settled at Cardington in 1650.

Mr. Whitbread has an occasional residence in this parish, at a house, called the Barns, upon his manor of Fenlake or Fenlake Barns.

About

About a mile and a half to the left of our road, three miles before we reach Shefford, is WARDEN ABBEY, founded in the year 1135, by Walter D'Espée. for Cistercian monks, from Ruesaux in Yorkshire, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In the year 1217 Fulk de Brent, of whom we have already given some particulars as to the violence of his character, treated the monks of this monastery with great cruelty, on account of a dispute about a wood, and carried thirty of them prisoners to his castle at Bedford. For this offence the haughty baron, who set all civil power at defiance, was obliged to submit to the paramount authority of the church, gladly making his peace by suffering manual discipline from the monks in the chapter-house at Warden, and at the same time confirming them in the possession of the wood about which the dispute had arisen.

At the time of its dissolution the revenues of Warden Abbey, were estimated at 389l. 16s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. clear yearly value. There are but small remains of the conventual buildings at present; they are of brick, and have not the appearance of great antiquity.

The site of the monastery is now the property of Samuel Whitbread, Esq. In 1669 it was the seat of Sir Ralph Bovey.

The village of Warden is situated in the hundred of Wixamtree, and deanery of Shefford, it is about three miles west from Biggleswade, and about nine south-east from Bedford. It had formerly a market on Tuesdays, granted in the year 1218, with a fair on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. In 1307 the market was confirmed with a fair on the feast of St. Leonard.

The manor is now the property of Mr. Whitbread.

In this parish is the seat of the Right Honble. Lord Ongley.

In the window of the parish Church is the figure
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of an abbot of Warden. In the church is a monument in memory of Sir Samuel Ongley, who died in 1726, with his statue, in a Roman dress. In the church-yard is the mausoleum of the late Lord Ongley, erected by his widow.

About two miles south from Warden is SOUTHILL, the seat of Samuel Whitbread, Esq. one of the representatives in parliament for Bedford.

This estate was formerly the property of the Torrington family. It was first purchased by Sir George Byng, a celebrated naval officer, in the reign of Queen Anne and George the First, who settled in this parish. He was created a peer in 1721, by the title of Baron Byng of Southill, and Viscount Torrington: he died in 1733, and lies buried in the parish-church. His unfortunate son, Admiral John Byng, who appears to have been sacrificed to the violence of party, was a native of this place, and is also interred in the parish Church; he was shot, at Portsmouth.

There is the following inscription to his memory in the family *Columbarium*.

“ To the perpetual disgrace of
Public Justice,
The Honourable John Byng,
Vice admiral of the blue, fell a martyr to
Political Persecution,
On March 14, in the year 1757,
when Bravery and Loyalty
were insufficient securities
for the life and honour
of a naval officer.”

In 1795, Southill was purchased of the present Lord Torrington by the late Mr. Whitbread; and it has been since so considerably improved, that it now ranks among the first seats in the county.

Southill-House was built about the year 1795, after the designs of Holland, a celebrated architect.
The

The apartments are remarkably handsome and elegantly decorated; over the doors of the principal rooms are basso-relievos by Garrard, representing various animals, and paintings of live game by Gilpin.

The Billiard Room contains a valuable collection of Garrard's models of sheep and cattle. Over the book-cases in the library are portraits of the principal clerks in the brewery of the late Mr. Whitbread; and over the chimney-piece in the same apartment is the portrait of Mr. Whitbread himself, with the following motto: "*Nobis hæc Otia fecit.*"

About a mile before we reach Shefford, on the right of our road, is CHICKSAND, an extra-parochial place, in the hundred of Clifton, the site of a priory founded in the year 1150, by Pain de Beauchamp, and Rose his wife, for nuns and canons of the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. Upon the Dissolution of this priory in 1538, its yearly value was estimated at 212l. 8s. 5½d. Its site was granted to R. Snow.

CHICKSAND PRIORY is at present the seat of General Sir George Osborn, Bart. A considerable part of the conventual buildings still remain.

The south and east fronts were rebuilt, or altered, sometime about the middle of last century, but the whole retains much of the monastic appearance. Two sides of the cloisters are nearly entire. Sir George Osborn, has filled the windows with ancient stained glass, and formed a collection of antiquities which are kept here; they have no immediate connection with the priory, excepting two ancient tombs, which were dug up in its precincts. In one of the walls is placed the tomb of an abbot of Pipwell, in Northamptonshire. The quadrangle within the cloisters is 64 feet, by 51 feet six inches.

There is a valuable collection of portraits at Chicksand House, chiefly of the Osborn family. The most remarkable of which are those of Peter

Osborn, privy purse to Edward VI. and one of the commissioners for ecclesiastical affairs in the reign of Queen Elizabeth : Sir Peter Osborn, governor of Jersey ; Francis Osborn, the son of Sir John Osborn, Knt. the author of several ingenious works ; Col. Henry Osborn, slain at the battle of Naseby ; and Henry Osborn, a distinguished naval officer, who died in 1771, vice admiral of Great Britain.

Among the other portraits are Sir Philip Warwick and his lady ; a fine whole length of Edward VI. by Holbein, and a very valuable portrait of Oliver Cromwell, by Sir Peter Lely. It was taken after he was Protector, and is said to have been a present to Sir John Danvers, one of the judges of Charles I.

There is a state bed-chamber in this house, built by Sir George Osborn, in imitation of the chapter-house at Peterborough. It contains a state-bed, which belonged to James I. and has upon it the initials I. A. with the crown. It is said to have been the bed upon which the Pretender was born, and that it became, upon that occasion, a perquisite of the chamberlain, who presented it to the Osborn family.

SHEFFORD is a chapelry in the parish of Campton, in the hundred of Clifton, ten miles from Bedford, on the road to London. It is situated between two brooks, which unite their streams not far from the town, and soon afterwards fall into the river Ivel. This place, which is now a post town, had until of late years a market on Fridays, and still has four fairs on the days inserted in our list : two of them, on the 23d of January and Easter Monday, are considerable marts of sheep and cows.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, the number of houses in Shefford, was 90, of inhabitants 474.

Shefford Chapel is a small mean building, containing no monument or inscription requiring particular notice.

Robert

Robert Lucas, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, left by his will some houses and lands for the purpose of keeping in repair the bridges, roads, and causeways in the town of Shefford ; the surplus, if any, to be given to the poor.

About a mile from Shefford is CAMPTON, anciently called Camelton, at present a small village in the hundred of Clifton. The manor was anciently possessed by the noble family of Lisle. Sir John de Lisle, who died possessed of it in 1356, was one of the original knight's companions of the Garter. Upon the estates of this family falling to the crown, this manor was annexed to the honour of Ampthill. It is now held on lease by the Duke of Bedford.

In 1645 the mansion-house was the property and seat of Sir Charles Ventris, whose narrow escape from assassination is recorded in the following inscription, still preserved on a pannel, which having received the contents of a musket has never been repaired.

“ In the year 1645 Sir Charles Ventris, knight banneret, created by King Charles for his valour in the Civil Wars, was (in the night time) by Oliver's party, shot at as he was walking in this Room, but happily missed him.”

The house is at present occupied as a school.

In the parish Church is a *Columbarium* for the Osborn family ; and in the aisle above are the monuments of Sir John and Sir Peter Osborn, who were successively lord treasurers remembrancers. These monuments were put up in the year 1653, by Henry Osborn, younger son of Sir Peter, afterwards Sir Henry Osborn, Knt. and one of the commissioners of the navy.

In the north aisle of the parish Church of CLIFTON, about one mile and a half east of Shefford, there is an altar-tomb, in memory of Sir Michael Fisher, lord of the manor of Clifton, who died in the year

1549; the sides are richly ornamented with tabernacle work.

The parish of Clifton gives name to the hundred in which it is situated.

The village of ARLESEY, about three miles south-east of Shefford, in the hundred of Clifton, was anciently a market-town. In Domesday Book its market on Wednesday is recorded, and the tolls valued at 10s. per annum. In 1270 it was confirmed to Stephen Edworth, then lord of the manor, with a fair to be held at the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul. Both the fair and market have been long disused. An ancient entrenchment near the road to Baldock, called Etonbury, was probably the original site of the castle occupied by the lords of this manor. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength.

The parish Church contains monuments of Sir Samuel Brown, a barrister, who died in 1665, and several of the families of Vigerous and Edwards. Richard Edwards, who died in 1691, is called in his epitaph the last grand reader of the Temple.

Upon the residue of our journey towards Hitchin in Hertfordshire, we do not meet with any thing requiring particular notice.

*Journey from Bedford to Luton; through
Clophill and Barton.*

HAWNES HOUSE, a seat of the Right Honble. Lord Carteret, is situated on the left of our road, about six miles from Bedford. It has been modernised and in great part rebuilt by the present noble owner. It is a handsome structure, consisting of two quadrangles. There is a good collection of pictures at this house, chiefly family portraits; among which are those of Margaret Countess of Lenox; Rembrandt's mother; Sir George and Lady Carteret, and John Earl of Granville. At the foot of the principal staircase is an ancient view of Longleat,

Longleat, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, in Wiltshire.

The manor of Hawnes was anciently part of the extensive possessions of the Beauchamps. In 1563 it became the property of Robert Newdigate, Esq.—On the 27th and 28th July, 1605, Queen Anne, the consort of James the First, was entertained at Hawnes, by Sir Robert Newdigate, his Majesty being then at Sir Edmund Conquest's at Houghton; on the 30th both their Majesties, with the whole court, attended divine service at Hawnes Church.

The parish Church of Hawnes formerly belonged to the priory of Chicksand, to which it was given by Simon de Beauchamp. It contains a monument of Anthony Newdigate, one of the commissioners for the sale of abbey lands, who died in 1568, and several memorials of the Osborn family.

About three miles from Hawnes is CLOPHILL, a populous village, in the hundred and deanery of Flitt. The manor anciently belonged to the Barons de Albini, who had a castle, the seat of their barony, at Cainhoe, in this parish. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength. The castle-hill, as it is still called, where the keep was situated, is high and steep, and now overgrown with coppice-wood. The manor of Clophill now belongs to the Right Honble. Lady Lucas.

There was anciently a religious house at Clophill, to whom Robert de Albini, the founder of the priory of Beaulieu in Hertfordshire, gave an estate in this parish. It appears to have been a cell to St. Alban's, and was of short duration.

The parish Church is situated on an eminence, at a considerable distance from the village. It contains no monument requiring particular notice.

According to the returns made under the population act in the year 1801, the parish of Clophill then contained 143 houses and 706 inhabitants.

SILSOE, one mile and a half from Clophill, is a hamlet

hamlet in the parish of Flitton : It formerly was a market town, having a market on Tuesday, granted to Ralph Fitz-Richard, lord of the manor in 1319, with a fair on the festival of St. Peter and St. James, which is still held ; there is another on the 21st September.

The market has been long disused.

This hamlet has a Chapel of ease, a decent structure. The altar-piece is a painting by Mrs. Mary Lloyd, representing the adoration of the shepherds ; It was given by her to the chapel.

On the left of our road, close to Silsoe, is WREST PARK, the seat of Baroness Lucas, daughter of the late Earl of Hardwicke, and Lady Jemima Campbell. This place was in 1524 the seat of Sir Henry Grey, whose ancestor Edmund Lord Grey of Ruthin was created Earl of Kent in 1465. In 1706 Henry de Grey Earl of Kent, was created marquis, and in 1710 Duke of Kent. He died in 1740, without leaving male issue, when the dukedom became extinct ; the marquise had been entailed on his eldest daughter Jemima, the lady of Lord Hardwicke, above-mentioned.

The house has been so much altered and improved at various times particularly by the Marchioness of Grey, during her widowhood, that it retains but little appearance of antiquity. It is constructed of white stone, and is altogether a very handsome edifice. It contains a great number of pictures, among which are many valuable portraits, forming nearly a complete series of the noble family of Grey, from Henry Earl of Kent, one of the peers who sat on the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, to the present time. The following are the most deserving of notice :

Mary Queen of Scots, represented dressed in black, her head reclining, in a pensive attitude, on a table. She was beheaded in Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire, in the year 1587.

James.

James the First, Anne of Denmark, and Henry their son. This is a very fine picture. Prince Henry died in the year 1613, much regretted by the nation.

Elizabeth Countess of Kent, who resided at Wrest, during her widowhood, and there patronised Butler the poet. She was frequently visited by the learned Selden.

Lord Somers. This celebrated statesman had a considerable share in the conduct of the Revolution in 1688.

Philip, Duke of Wharton.

Lord Chancellor Hardwicke; by Hoare of Bath. This eminent lawyer was born at Dover 1690; after filling the respective stations of solicitor and attorney-general, he was appointed chief justice of the King's Bench, and created a peer. On the decease of Lord Talbot in 1736, he was promoted to the office of lord chancellor, which he held 20 years. In 1764 he was created Earl of Hardwicke, and died in the year 1774.

Amabel, the second countess of Henry, Earl of Kent, who died in 1651. This lady was commonly called the good Countess of Kent; during her son's minority she redeemed and considerably improved the family estate.

Sir William Temple, arrayed in a red vest, his hair black and flowing; his whiskers small. He holds in his hand the triple alliance, the greatest act of his patriotic life; but rendered useless by the profligacy of the ministry of the times.

Lady Jane Grey, represented in a plain white cap, a handkerchief fastened under her arms, and a black gown; she has a book in her hand. The talents and acquirements of this unfortunate lady were very extraordinary. At the age of 16 years, she was mistress of the Greek and Latin, versed in Hebrew, Chaldean, Arabic, French, and Italian; skilled in music; and excellent at her needle.

Sir Charles Lucas; by Dobson, a half-length. Sir Charles is represented in armour, with a fine sash, and long hair. This gentleman was brother of the first Lord Lucas.

In the passage there is a very curious portrait of *Lady Susan Grey*, daughter of Charles Earl of Kent, and wife to Sir Michael Longueville. She was celebrated for her skill in needle-work, and is represented in a wedding suit of her own making. This lady is said to have died in consequence of pricking her finger with a needle. She looks extremely pale in the painting; her gown is finely flowered, her petticoat white and striped, her robes lined with ermine, her veil large and distended; her wedding ring hangs from her wrist by a silken string.

Secretary Walsingham.—This patriot statesman was so attentive to the interests of his country, and so negligent of his own, as to die without leaving enough to defray his funeral expences.

The pleasure grounds at Wrest Park exhibit a specimen of the old style improved by Browne, whose skill was particularly displayed in the noble serpentine river, which forms a principal ornament in these grounds. It is a very fine piece of water, about three quarters of a mile in length, surrounding the garden, and supplied by a spring, rising at a short distance from the house. At the spring head there is a cold bath, over which is a building in imitation of a Roman temple, after a design by Sir William Chambers.

The Duke of Kent, during his residence at Wrest Park, adorned the gardens with obelisks and other ornamental buildings, particularly a magnificent banquetting house, which terminates a spacious avenue in front of the mansion, and a large room where he passed many convivial hours with some of the eminent statesmen who were his cotemporaries.

The pleasure grounds abound with many fine large trees, and the park is remarkably well wooded
and

and stocked-with deer. In one part is a very fine obelisk, which, from its elevated situation, is to be seen at the distance of several miles round.

The following beautiful lines are inscribed on an hermitage in this park :

“ Stranger, or guest, whom e’er this hallow’d grove,
Shall chance receive, where sweet contentment
dwells,

Bring here no heart that with ambition swells,
With av’rice pines, or burns with lawless love.

Vice-tainted souls will all in vain remove,
To sylvan shades and hermit’s peaceful cells;
In vain will seek Retirement’s lenient spells,
Or hope that bliss which only good men prove.

If Heaven-born truth, and sacred virtue’s lore,
Which cheer, adorn, and dignify the mind,
Are constant inmates of thy honest breast ;

If unrepining at thy neighbour’s store,
Thou count’st as thine the good of all mankind,
Then welcome share the friendly groves of
Wrest.”

The parish Church of FLITTON is an ancient Gothic structure, chiefly remarkable for the monuments of the noble family of Grey, whose burial place it has been since the reign of Henry VIII. In the aisle adjoining the nave are the monuments of Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1614, with the effigies, in their robes, of himself and his countess Mary, daughter of Sir John Cotton ; Elizabeth Countess of Kent, who died in 1651, with her effigies in white marble ; Henry Earl of Kent, who died in 1651, and his second wife Amabel, above-mentioned, who died in 1698, at the great age of 92 : their effigies are in white marble, but ill executed ; and Lady Jane, the relict of Sir Eustace Hart, who died in 1671, with her effigies in marble. Three additional rooms were built by the Duke of Kent, which contains

tains the monuments of the duke himself, who died in 1740, and his only son Anthony, Earl of Harold, who died in 1723, with their effigies in white marble in Roman habits. There are also the monuments of his two duchesses, Jemima Crewe, who died in 1738, and Lady Sophia Bentinck, who died in 1748; his three daughters, Amabel, Lady Glenorchy, who died in 1727; Lady Henrietta de Grey, 1717; and Lady Ann Cavendish, 1733, with their effigies in white marble. There is also an urn to the memory of Lady Mary Gregory, a fourth daughter of the duke, who died in 1761, and another in memory of the Earl of Hardwicke, who died in 1790.

In the chancel is the figure in brass of an *honest* steward; he is represented, dressed in a long cloak, trunk breeches, great ruff, and large night cap. His name was Thomas Hill, receiver-general to three Earls of Kent. He died May 26, 1601, aged 101. His character is recorded in these lines:

“ Aske how he lived, and you shall know his ende,
He dy'd a saint to God, to poore a friende.
These lines men know do truly of him story,
Whom God hath called, and seated now in glory.”

Flitton was anciently called Flictham, Flutte, and Flitt. It gives name to the hundred and deanery in which it is situated.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, this parish then contained, with the hamlet of *Silsoe*, 122 houses, and 732 inhabitants.

In the parish of UPPER GRAVENHURST, about a mile east from Wrest Park, there was an ancient mansion, called ION HOUSE, formerly the residence of John Sabine, Esq. who was created a baronet in 1672. It is now a farm-house, belonging to Lady Lucas.

The parish Church of LOWER GRAVENHURST, the adjoining village, was built by Sir Robert de Bilhemore,

more, as appears from a French inscription on his tomb, without date. In the porch there is the coat of arms of the founder, a bend with a border engrailed. The church contains several monuments of the Pigots. Upon that of Benjamin Pigot, Esq. who died in 1606, is a genealogical account of the family.

About a mile and a half on the right of our road, at a short distance south of Flitton, a gold mine was supposed to have been discovered in the beginning of the last century; being taken possession of for the king, it was leased to a refiner. The first substance found beneath the common earth, appeared like a mixture of clay and iron ore. Beneath was a heavy yellow mineral said to contain gold; but the produce being insufficient to defray the expences of working it was soon given up.

About two miles on the left of our road, and one from Wrest Park, is the village of HIGHAM GOBION, noted for being the rectory, retreat, and burial-place of the learned orientalist, Dr. Edmund Castell, author of the Polyglot Bible, and the Lexicon Hepta Glotton. He was born in 1606, at Hutley, in Cambridgeshire, and was educated at Emanuel College, from which he removed to St. John's. He commenced his Lexicon, while at the University, and it remains a memorable proof of his knowledge and industry. In 1663 he was presented with the rectory of Higham Gobion. In 1666 he was appointed king's chaplain and Arabic professor at Cambridge, and two years afterwards made a prebendary of Canterbury. He fell a victim to his intense application to study. He was a short time before his death deprived of his sight. He was buried in the chancel of Higham Gobion Church, where there is engraven, on a tablet of black marble, placed against the north wall, in a white stone frame, the following inscription:

"Edmundus Castell, S. T. D., Regiæ Majestati Carolo II. a sacris Ecclesiæ Christi Cantuarensis Canonicus, Linguae Arabicæ apud Cantabridgienses Professor, Regalis Societatis Socius, Author Lexicon Heptaglotti, necnon hujus Ecclesiæ Rector. Mortalitatis quod reliquum est tam ipse quam Lectissimæ ejus conjugi Domina Elizabethæ Bettesworth, Petri Bettesworth, Militis Aurati primo relictæ, deinde Joannis Harris Arm. (cujus filius Willielmus una cum filiâ ejus Elizabethâ hic jacent) Anno Ætat. Edmundi 68 Dæ. Elizabethæ 64—Anno Christi 1674, —Vivus hic legat humandum."

About a mile and a half north-east from Higham Gobion, is the small village of SHITTLINGTON, anciently Sethingdone, in the hundred of Clifton, and deanery of Shefford. The parish church is a large and handsome Gothic structure; the tower was rebuilt in 1750, through the exertions of Mr. George Story, then curate, by brief-subscription and a parish rate. There are several monuments in this church of the Longueville and Briscoe families. Also the tomb and effigies, on a brass plate, of Mathew de Asshton, Rector of Shittlington and canon of Lincoln, who died in 1400.

The village of BARTON, through which we next pass on our road, thirteen miles from Bedford, is sometimes called Barton-in-the-Clay, from its situation at the commencement of the clayey soil under Barton Hill. The rectory of Barton is in the gift of the town.

About a mile and a half from Barton, on the left of our road, is STRETLEY, a small village. In this parish is the hamlet of SHARPENHOE, where the family of Wingate had a seat for several generations; and here it was that Edmund Wingate, the arithmetician, is said to have been born.

There is a Charity-School at Sharpenhoe, founded by Richard Norton, in the year 1686, and endowed with a rent charge of 10l. per annum.

The

The village of SUNDON, anciently Soningdon, about two miles south-west from Stretly, was formerly a market town, with a fair by royal grant in 1316.

LUTON

Is about five miles from Stretly, situated in the hundred of Flitt, and deanery of Dunstable, on the road from London to Ampthill and Bedford. It is a considerable market-town, pleasantly situated on the river Lea, which rises in its neighbourhood, near Lea-Grove. The town is irregularly built, somewhat in the form of a roman Y; the angles branching off from the market house.

The market is held on Mondays, and is noted for its abundant supply of corn. In the Norman survey the tolls are valued at 100s. per annum. There are two annual fairs on the days inserted in our list.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, Luton parish then contained 612 houses, and 3095 inhabitants.

The parish Church of Luton is a handsome Gothic structure, consisting of a choir, a nave, and two aisles, supported by ten pointed arches, two transepts, and a handsome embattled tower on the west, composed of flint and other stones in chequer work. At the corners are hexangular turrets, similar to that at Dunstable. The arch at the west door is ornamented with mouldings of various flowers, &c.—The chancel was built by John Whithamsted, abbot of St. Alban's, in the 15th century. On the south side are four stone seats, richly ornamented; in the spandrils are the arms of Edward the Confessor, the kingdom of Mercia, the abbey of St. Alban's, King Offa, Abbot Whithampsted, &c. Above is the abbot's motto, "*Valles Abundabunt.*"

On the north side of the chancel is a vestry, and a school room, and an elegant chapel, which from the following inscription, preserved in the British Museum, appears to have been built by Sir John Wen-

lock, sometime before the year 1461, when he was created Baron Wenlock.

“ Jesu Christ, most of myght,
Have mercy on John le Weniock, Knight,
And on his wife Elizabeth,
Who out of this world is past by death
Which founded this chapel here;
Help them with your hearty prayer,
That they may come to that place,
Where ever is joy and solace.”

This inscription, with the portrait of Lord Wenlock, was formerly in the east window, but has been destroyed or removed.

Sir John le Wenlock flourished in the reign of Henry VI. he was constable of Bamburg Castle, and chamberlain to the queen. Having amassed great wealth, he furnished his royal master with the loan of 1033l. 6s. 8d. for which he received an assignment of the fifteenth and tenth, granted by parliament in the year 1456, and was soon after rewarded with the order of the garter.

In the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, he at first loyally supported the cause of the latter, and was dreadfully wounded at the first battle of St. Alban's. He afterwards joined the Duke of York, and was in consequence, in 1459, attainted by the Lancastrian parliament. He distinguished himself in Towton field, and was recompensed by the conqueror, for all his former losses, with several important offices; was created a baron, employed in several embassies, and appointed lieutenant of Calais. Notwithstanding all these favours, he again revolted, and joined the Earl of Warwick, in his attempt to restore the deposed Henry. At the fatal battle of Shrewsbury he was appointed by the Earl of Somerset, the general of the queen's forces, to command the middle ward of the army. The earl himself led the van, and made a furious attack

attack upon the enemy : but finding no support from the centre, he returned enraged to discover the cause. He found Lord Wenlock, with his troops drawn up in the market-place, whether panic-struck or designing again to revolt is not certain ; unable to curb his fury, the earl rode up, and with one blow of his battle-axe cleft the head of the supposed traitor.

There are some very ancient monuments in Luton Church. Under one of the arches is an altar-tomb, on which is the effigies of an ecclesiastic in his robes, said to be that of William Wenlock, prebendary of Brownswood in the cathedral Church of St. Paul's, and master of the Hospital of Farleigh, who died in 1392. There are the following imperfect inscriptions on this tomb.—On the north side :

“ In Wenlock brad I,
In this town lordschippes had I,
Her am I now fady,
Christe's moder help me lady.
Under these stones
For a tym schal I reste my bones,
Dey mot I ned ones,
Myghtful God grant me thy wones.”

On the south side :

“ — illelmus sic tumulatus,
De Wenlok natus,
In ordine presbiteratus,
Alter hujus ville,
Dominus meus fuit ille,
Hic licet indignus,
Anime Deus esto benignus.”

In Wenlock Chapel are several altar tombs, stripped of their brasses. One of them was that of Sir Thomas Rotheram, of Someries. In the north aisle are the monuments of the Rotherams of Farleigh ; at the west end of the south aisle is the mutilated

figure of an ecclesiastic holding a cross. In the north transept is the tomb of John Ackworth, Esq. who died in 1513.

The following curious inscription, excepting the three first words which have been removed, remain on a brass plate round the verge :

“ [O man whoe'er] thou be! Timor mortis showlde trowble thee; for when thow leest wenyst, veniet te mors seperare and so grave grevys, ergo mortis memoreris. Jesu mercy, lady help.”

At the west end of the nave is an elegant Gothic baptistery of an hexagonal form, containing a font, or baptisterium, composed of stone, and standing on five pillars. The baptistery consists of six lofty pointed arches, terminated with elegant tabernacle work. On the inside of the roof a vine, the emblem of the church, is represented guarded by a lamb, from the assaults of the devil, in the shape of a dragon.

There are several fragments of painted glass in the south window, and in the windows of Wenlock Chapel there are sufficient remains to shew the stile of the original decorations in this respect. They appear to have consisted of single figures and coats of arms, on a ground of plain glass, charged with various small devices, among which the broom pod and a rudder, accompanied with the word *Hola*, are most conspicuous.

In the east window is a representation of Saint George and the dragon; the saint is on foot, and has a red cross on his breast. Underneath are five men in blue-furred gowns, and a woman praying. The Wenlock arms, within the garter, are also to be seen in various parts of the church.

King Offa gave part of the town of Luton to the monks of St. Alban's, the manor at the time of the Norman Conquest, being a royal demesne, was given by William to Geoffry Earl of Perch. In 1216 it

was

was possessed by the famous Fulk de Brent, who obtained a confirmation from King John of the honor of Luton. The castle at Luton, which was built in 1221, was one of the fortresses of this haughty baron.

In 1406 King Henry V. granted the manor to John Duke of Bedford, regent of France. The next possessor on record is the John Lord Wenlock above-mentioned. "The Lord Wenlock," says Leland, "left an heir-general that was married to a kinsman of Thomas Scotte, otherwise called Rotheram, bishop of York. He had with her in marriage Luton in Bedfordshire, and three hunderhethmarkes of lande thereabouts, and a fair place within the parochie of Luton, caulyd SOMERYS, the which house was sumptuously begun by Lord Wenlock, but not finished." The gateway and part of a tower are still to be seen. The tower has been very high and of great strength.

In 1475 the manor was granted to Thomas Rotheram, the bishop of Lincoln, and it continued in the Rotheram family till the year 1614, when it was purchased by Sir Robert Napier, Bart. It is at present the property of the Marquis of Bute, whose principal country seat is at Luton Hoo, in this parish.

John Pomfret, the poet, was born at Luton, in the year 1668. His father, who was a clergyman and rector of Luton, taught him the first rudiments of learning; after which he sent him to the university of Cambridge, where he finished his studies. He entered minutely into all the branches of polite literature, and imbibed the sentiments of the finest Greek and Roman classics, without losing sight of the pastoral office, for which he had been designed by his parents.

Having taken his degrees, and entered into holy orders, he was presented to the living of Malden in Essex, where he distinguished himself by a conscientious

tious discharge of every duty incumbent on him as a minister of the gospel, and was a strenuous assertor of civil and religious liberty.

In 1699 he published his first edition of his poems, which have ever since been justly admired. In 1703 he was presented to a considerable living in this county, and came up to London for induction from Bishop Compton; but that prelate having taken some offence at four lines in one of his poems called *The Choice*, Mr. Pomfret was detained so long in town, that he was seized with the small pox, of which he died in the 26th year of his age.

The lines that gave offence to the bishop were the following:

“ And as I near approach’d the verge of life,
Some kind relation (for I’d have no wife),
Should take upon him all my wordly care,
While I did for a better state prepare.”

It had been insinuated to the bishop that Mr. Pomfret’s intimation in the above lines was, that he preferred a mistress to a wife; but nothing could be more base and malicious, for Mr. Pomfret was at that time married to a woman whom he loved with the utmost tenderness. The bishop, however, was at last convinced that he had been imposed upon; but not till it was too late for poor Pomfret, who in the mean time fell a victim to the ravages of an epidemical distemper.

LUTON HOO, the seat of the Marquis of Bute, is situated about two miles east from the town of Luton, upon an eminence at the edge of the Bedfordshire downs, surrounded by a well-wooded park, containing about 1500 acres of land. The river Lea, which rises in the neighbouring parish of Houghton Regis, flows through the park, and supplies two pieces of water, one containing fourteen the other fifty acres.

A great part of the house was built by the Napiers,

piers, some parts are of a more ancient date, but the whole has been nearly rebuilt by the late Lord Bute, father of the present noble owner, upon a magnificent plan, designed by the celebrated Adams. The east and south wing however were only completed. The principal rooms are spacious, particularly the *Library*, which is said to be inferior only to that of *Blenheim*. It is 146 feet in length, divided into three rooms, containing a valuable collection of scarce and curious books. The house also contains a large collection of paintings, chiefly of the Italian and Flemish schools, partly collected by the late earl, but the finest have been added by the present noble possessor. Among them are several by Raphael, Titian, Rubens, the Caracci, Corregio, &c. Among the portraits are Margaret, Queen of Scots, with her second husband, Archibald Douglas; the first Earl of Pembroke; the Earls of Strafford; General Ireton; Mr. Pym; Mrs. Lane, who assisted King Charles II. on his escape after the battle of Worcester; Lord Chancellor Jefferies; Ben Jonson; Dr. Samuel Johnson, Dr. Armstrong, and the late Earl of Bute, by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

In the Chapel is preserved an extremely fine Gothic wainscot, highly enriched with carving, intermingled with Latin sentences of scripture, in ancient characters. It is said to have been originally executed for Sir Thomas Pope, at Tillingham, in 1548, and removed to Luton by Sir Robert Napier, in perfect preservation.

The grounds have been considerably improved by art. The river Lea meanders through the park, in a highly picturesque manner and forms in its progress the lakes above-mentioned. The largest contains several small islands and plantations, presenting a most agreeable prospect. From a path leading through a beautiful valley, is a pleasing view of a plain Tuscan pillar; on the pedestal of which is the following inscription:

“ In

“ In Memory of
MR. FRANCIS NAPIER.”

The pillar is surmounted with a beautiful urn.—
The prospect from this spot is remarkably fine.

The portico of a stately mansion in brick, began to be erected by Lord Wenlock in the reign of Edward IV. still remains complete in the wood at Luton Hoo.

At FARLEY, or Farleigh, about two miles from Luton, there was anciently an hospital, given by King Henry II. to the great foreign hospital of Santingfield in Picardy, to which the master and brethren of Farleigh were made subordinate. In 1379, William Wenlock, the prebendary of Brownswood, above-mentioned, was master of this hospital. It was afterwards given by King Henry VI. upon the suppression of alien houses, to the provost and scholars of King's College in Cambridge.

*Journey from Eaton-Socon to Dunstable ; through
Bedford and Ampthill.*

EATON SOCON is a considerable village, in the hundred of Barford, upon the great north road. It contains nearly 400 houses, among which are several handsome buildings ; and, according to the returns under the population act in 1801, there were then 1625 inhabitants.

The parish Church is an ancient Gothic structure ; the windows have been ornamented with stained glass, of which there are still considerable remains in the north aisle, representing subjects from the legends of St. Nicholas and St. Etheldreda.

There was formerly a castle at Eaton Socon, the seat of a branch of the Beauchamp family, who were barons of the realm from the time of Henry II. to the year 1292, when Ralph de Beauchamp died seized of the manor of Eaton-Socon, held by baronial service. Leland says, “ Eaton, a good village,
were

were be seene vestigia castelli, between the church and the ripe, and almost hard on the ripe : and at this Eaton is a little poor bridge of ease over the river. The ruins of Eaton Castle belonging to my Lord Vaulx." Edward Lord Vaux in 1624 sold the manor &c. to Rowland Squire. In 1708 it passed to the ancestors of the Duke of Bedford, the present proprietor.

There was formerly a religious house in this parish for Austin friars, called the priory of *Bissemede* or Bushmead, founded in the reign of Henry the Second, by Oliver Beauchamp and his son Hugh, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At the Dissolution its revenues were estimated at 71l. 13s. 9½d. clear yearly value. The site was granted in 1537 to Sir William Gascoigne, comptroller of the household to Cardinal Wolsey. Bushmead is at present the property and seat of the Rev. Hugh Wade Grey, who has in his possession a cartulary of the priory, very fairly written on vellum, and drawings made by Buck of the conventual buildings, no part of which now remains, excepting the refectory, which has been converted into stables and offices.

About three miles west from Eaton-Socon, is COLMWORTH, a village in the hundred of Barford, and deanery of Eaton, about eight miles north-east of Bedford.

The parish Church is a handsome Gothic structure, with a lofty spire, to be seen at a considerable distance. This church contains several ancient monuments ; among which are, the tomb of Eleanor the wife of Sir Gerrard Braybroke, daughter and heir of Aylmer ; Lord St. Armand, who had large possessions in this county in the fourteenth century ; and a very magnificent monument, erected in 1641, by Lady Dyer in memory of her deceased husband, Sir William Dyer, Knight, and we are informed by the
the

the inscription that "they multiplied themselves into seven children."

The following quaint lines are also inscribed upon this monument.

" My dearest dust, could not thy hasty day
Afford thy drowsy patience leave to stay
One hour longer, so that we might either
Have set up or gone to-bed together:
But since thy finish'd labour hath possess'd
Thy weary limbs with early rest,
Enjoy it sweetly and thy widow bride
Shall soon repose her by thy slumbering side;
Whose business now is only to prepare
My nightly dress and call to prayer.
Mine eyes wax heavy, and the days grow old,
The dew falls thick, my blood grows cold,
Draw draw the closed curtains, and make room,
My dear, my dearest dust, I come, I come."

At **LITTLE BARFORD**, a small village, about a mile and a half south east from Eaton Socon, on the left of our road, Nicholas Rowe, the dramatic poet, was born in 1661. He was the son of an eminent sergent-at-law, and received his first education at a private school in Highgate, from whence he was removed to Winchester, where, about the 12th year of his age he was chosen one of the king's scholars. Besides a perfect knowledge of the Greek and Latin, he made himself master of the Hebrew Language, and wrote many ingenious copies of verses before he left the school.

When he was about sixteen years of age, his father, who had designed him for the study of the law, took him from school, and entered him as a student in the Middle Temple, where he was made a bencher, in order that his father might have him under his own immediate direction.

He was strongly solicited by his friends to practise at the bar, particularly by Sir George Treby,
lord

lord chief justice of the common pleas, who had a great esteem for him ; but nothing could overcome his affection for the muses, and his first play, the Ambitious Step-mother, having been received with great applause, he was determined to make poetry his profession.

Mr. Rowe had imbibed in his youth the most noble sentiments of liberty, of which he gave a specimen in his tragedy of Tamerlane. This was the second play he wrote, and has since been usually performed on the 4th and 5th of November, in commemoration of the Gunpowder Treason and the landing of King William. His next play, and indeed his greatest master piece, was his Fair Penitent, where all the characters are supported with so much judgment, and the language so extremely elegant, that it is in as much esteem at this time, as when it was first acted.

Besides those already mentioned he wrote several other pieces for the stage, most of which met with great success. His distinguished abilities, and courteous behaviour, recommended him to several noble personages, particularly to the Duke of Queensbury, who being secretary of state, appointed him his under secretary for public affairs ; but he lost that place when the duke resigned the seals.

Mr. Rowe being out of all employment, went one day to wait on the Earl of Oxford, lord high treasurer of England ; when, amongst other things, his lordship asked him whether he understood Spanish. He answered in the negative ; and his lordship replied, that he would advise him to learn it as soon as possible. Mr. Rowe, imagining that the earl intended sending him to Spain on some honourable commission, replied, he would use his endeavours, and that he did not doubt but he should soon be able both to speak and understand it. He then took his leave, and immediately retired to a farm-house in the country, where with the assistance of a few

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books

books, he soon made himself master of the Spanish tongue. Accordingly he waited on the earl to inform him of his acquisition, who asked him if he was sure he had a perfect knowledge of it. Mr. Rowe answering in the affirmative, the Earl burst into the following exclamation : “ How happy are you, Mr. Rowe, that you can now enjoy the pleasure of reading and understanding Don Quixote in the original !” This was a severe sarcasm ; but it is supposed that as the earl was at the head of the tory party, it was done to mortify Mr. Rowe, who had made such a noble stand for liberty, and ridiculed tyranny on the stage.

On the accession of George I. he was made poet-laureate, and one of the surveyors of the customs in the port of London. The Prince of Wales also conferred on him the place of clerk of the council, and the lord-chancellor, Parker, made him his secretary for the presentations the very day he received the seals, without his asking for it.

These respective offices he held till his death, which happened on the 6th of December, 1718, in the 45th year of his age.

He was twice married ; first to the daughter of auditor Parsons ; and afterwards to the daughter of one Mr. Devenish, a gentleman of fortune in Devonshire. By the first lady he had a son, and by the second (who survived him) a daughter.

Mr. Rowe in his person was graceful and well made, his face regular, and of a manly beauty. He had a quick and fruitful invention, a deep penetration, and a large compass of thought, with a singular dexterity and ease in communicating his opinions.— He was master of most parts of polite learning, especially the classic authors, both Greek and Latin ; and he perfectly understood the French, Italian and Spanish languages. He had likewise read most of the Greek and Roman histories in their original languages ; and had a good taste for philosophy.—

Having

Having a firm impression of religion upon his mind, he took delight in divinity and ecclesiastical history, in both of which he made great advances in the times he retired to the country. He expressed, upon all occasions, his full persuasion of the truth of revealed religion ; and being a sincere member of the established church himself, he pitied, but condemned not, those who departed from it: he abhorred the principle of persecuting men on account of religious opinions, and being strict in his own, he took it not upon him to censure those of another persuasion. His conversation was pleasant, witty, and learned, without the least tincture of affectation or pedantry ; and his inimitable manner of diverting, or enlivening the company, made it impossible for any one to be out of humour with him ; envy and detraction seemed to be entirely foreign to his constitution ; and whatever provocations he met with at any time, he passed them over without the least thought of resentment or revenge.

He was buried with great funeral pomp, in Westminster-abbey, where a handsome monument was afterwards erected by his wife to the memory both of him and his daughter. On the pedestal, which is about twenty inches high, and stands on an altar, is a most beautiful bust, near which is the figure of a lady in the deepest sorrow ; and between both, on a pyramid behind, is a medallion, with the head of a young lady in relief. On the front of the pedestal is the following inscription :

“ To the memory of Nicholas Rowe, Esq. who died in 1718, aged 45. And of Charlotte, his only daughter, wife of Henry Fane, Esq. who inheriting her father’s spirit, and amiable in her own innocence and beauty, died in the 23rd year of her age, 1739.”

Beneath, on the front of the altar, is the following epitaph, written by Mr. Pope :

" Thy reliques, Rowe, to this sad shrine we trust,
 And near thy Shakespear place thy honour'd bust,
 Oh ! skill'd next him to draw the tender tear,
 For never heart felt passion more sincere :
 'To nobler sentiments to fire the brave,
 For never Briton more disdain'd a slave !
 Peace to thy gentle shade, and endless rest,
 Blest in thy genius, in thy love too blest !
 And blest, that timely from our scene remov'd,
 Thy soul enjoys that liberty it lov'd.

To these, so mourn'd in death, so lov'd in life,
 The childless mother and the widow'd wife,
 With tears inscribes this monumental stone,
 That holds their ashes, and expects her own."

The parish Church of ROXTON, a small village on the road, about three miles from Eaton-Socon, contains an altar-tomb, in memory of Roger Hunt, of Chalverstone, a hamlet in Roxton parish, who was a baron of the Exchequer in 1439.

About two miles south-east from Roxon, on the great north road, is TEMPSFORD, situated in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, near the confluence of the Ouse and the Ivel.

This is a very ancient place, mentioned by our oldest historians as a Danish town, which was taken by King Edward in the year 921. In 1010 being in their possession, it was burnt by the Danish army.

The parish Church contains memorials of the families of Chetwode and Payne.

About three miles from Roxton, a little to the left of our road, is BLUNHAM, a small village, in the hundred of Wixamtree and deanery of Shefford. It formerly had a market on Wednesdays, and a fair on the festival of St. James, granted in the year 1315.

The manor of Blunham was some time the residence of Charles Grey, Earl of Kent, who
 died

died there in 1625. It is at present occupied as a farm.

The parish Church contains several ancient memorials of the Longuevilles, and of the family of Bromsall. There is also the monument of Lady Susan Longueville, the daughter and heir of the above-mentioned earl of Kent.

At GREAT BARFORD, two miles from Roxton, on our road, there is a bridge over the Ouse, erected in the fifteenth century.

From hence to Bedford we meet with nothing requiring particular notice ; we shall therefore pass on until we arrive at HOUGHTON CONQUEST, a small village, about five miles from Bedford, in the hundred of Redburnstoke and deanery of Bedford. It takes its additional name from the family of Conquest, who were possessed of the manor before the thirteenth century. The remains of the old mansion is now a farm-house. The building is of brick and timber ; the eaves are ornamented with grotesque figures carved in wood. In 1605 James I. visited Sir Edmund Conquest at this seat, where he slept on the 27th and 28th of July ; the queen being at the same time at Sir Richard Newdigate's at Hawnes, as we have before mentioned.

Sir Francis Clerke, the great benefactor to Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, founded a Free School, and Alms-house for six poor people, at Houghton Conquest, in the year 1632. The master of the free-school has a salary of 16l. per annum ; and the poor people in the alms-house receive 8l. amongst them, under Sir Francis Clerke's will.

In 1691 Edmund Wylde, Esq. bequeathed the sum of 140l. to be laid out in the purchase of lands, the profits of which are appropriated towards the repairs of the school and the almshouse. The overplus, if any, to be divided among the poor people.

In the parish Church are some memorials of the

Conquest family. In the chancel is the monument of Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton Conquest, inducted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

In the parish register is the following curious entry, inserted by Mr. Archer. "Anno 1623, I caused my grave to be made with brick; and I made my coffin, whereon are set these figures 1623." The following epitaph is of his own writing:

"Instruxi vivens multos,
 Nunc Instruo cunctos,
 Quod struit una dies
 Destruit una dies.
 Sic speciosa ruit
 Spatiosi fabrica mundi,
 Sic oritur, moritur,
 Vermis, inermis, homo.
 O me felicem
 Qui carnis fasce solutus
 Mutavi veris vitrea
 Vana bonis.
 Fui Thomas Archer,
 Capellanus Regis Jacobi,
 Rector hujus ecclesiae
 Per annos XLI.
 In vita hoc posui
 Anno Domini MDCXXIX.
 Anno Ætatis LXXVI.
 Veniet qui me in lucem
 reponet dies."

The effigies of the deceased is represented in canonicals in his pulpit, with a cushion and book before him.

In the chancel there is also the monument of Dr. Zachary Grey, rector of Houghton, editor of *Hudibras*, and a commentator on *Shakespear*. Upon the monument is the following inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of Zachary Grey, L. L. D.
 late rector of this parish, who with zeal undissemb-
 led

led served his God ; with love and affection endeared himself to his family ; with sincerity unaffected promoted the interest of his friends ; and with real charity, and extensive humanity behaved towards all mankind. He died, Nov, 25, 1766, aged 78."

HOUGHTON PARK, otherwise Dame Ellensbury Park, was occupied in the early part of the reign of James I by Sir Edmund Conquest, as keeper; in 1615 he assigned over his interest in it to the trustees for the celebrated Mary, Countess of Pembroke, upon whom Ben Jonson wrote the following beautiful epitaph :

" Underneath this marble hearse,
Lies the subject of all verse,
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother ;
Death ! ere thou hast slain another
Fair and wise and good as she,
Time shall throw his dart at thee."

This lady holding the park under the crown during her widowhood built a splendid mansion, of which the shell only remains at present.

The celebrated Christian, Countess of Devonshire, spent three years in retirement at this house, then in the possession of her brother the Earl of Elgin, after the battle of Worcester, in the year 1651.

Houghton Park is now united to Ampthill Park, through an exchange made between the late Duke of Bedford and Lord Ossory, forming in the whole a very handsome demesne.

At the entrance of the park from Ampthill, there was formerly a lodge ; and a pear tree, under which Sir Philip Sidney is reported to have written part of his *Arcadia*, and Pomfret many of his verses.

On the other side of this road is Ampthill Park, the seat of the Earl of Upper Ossory. The house is a very superb edifice, situated near the foot of the hill,

hill, yet sufficiently elevated to command a fine prospect over the vale of Bedford. It was built about the year 1694, by the first Lord Ashburnham. The apartments contain a small but valuable collection of paintings, by the old as well as modern masters, such as Julio Romano, Palma, Rubens, Vandyck, Carraci, Rembrandt, Teniers, Gyp, Louthembourg, Gainsborough, Stubs, Sir Joshua Reynolds, &c. a handsome library, and a museum of natural history. Among the paintings by Sir Joshua is to be noticed a fine portrait of Sterne.

This mansion suffered very severely from the dreadful storm on the 19th of August, 1800. In the west front not less than 700 panes of glass were broken by the hail-stones; which, by persons of the strictest veracity, were affirmed to be seven inches in circumference, and of a flat form. The town of Ampthill, and many of the neighbouring villages, suffered in the same manner.

The grounds of Ampthill which rise behind the house on a steep natural bank, are agreeably disposed and afford some very beautiful scenery. The park is particularly picturesque. It is remarkable for its ancient oaks. A survey of Ampthill Park, taken by order of parliament 1653, mentions 287 trees as being hollow, and too much decayed for the use of the navy. These oaks remain to the present day, contributing greatly by their picturesque appearance to the ornament of the place.

The manor of Ampthill at the time of the Norman survey, was possessed by the baronial family of Albini; in 1441, it became the property of Sir John Cornwall, a distinguished military character in the reigns of Henry IV. and Henry V. In the glorious battle of Agincourt he was one of the chosen officers who had the post of honour, with the Duke of York, in the van. Leland says "that he builded the castle of Antehill of such spoils as it is said he won in France. In 1432 he was created Lord Fanhope, and

and in 1433, Baron of Milbrook. In 1524 Reginald Grey, Earl of Kent, was seized of the manor of Ampthill, and soon after it came into the possession of the crown, and was made *an Honour*, by act of parliament.

Catharine of Arragon, the first queen of Henry VIII. resided at the castle of Ampthill, while the business of the divorce was pending before the commissioners at Dunstable. She had been cited to appear in court to defend her cause, but on refusing to do so, the sentence of separation was pronounced.

In reference to this circumstance, a neat octagonal Gothic column, designed by Mr. Essex, with a shield bearing her arms, was erected in the year 1770, by the Earl of Ossory, on the site of the castle, inscribed with the following lines:

“ In days of old, here Ampthill’s towers were seen,
The mournful refuge of an injured queen;
Here flow’d her pure but unavailing tears;
Here blinded zeal sustain’d her sinking years.
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banners wav’d,
And Love aveng’d a realm by priests enslav’d.
From Catherine’s wrongs a nation’s bliss was spread,
And Luther’s light from Henry’s lawless bed.”

After this period the castle at Ampthill was suffered to go to decay, and in 1649 appears to have been some time totally demolished. After the Restoration Ampthill Great Park was granted by Charles II. to Mr. John Ashburnham, as a reward for the faithful and important services which he had rendered to that monarch and his father. In 1800, John, Earl of Upper Ossory, became possessed of the lease of the honour of Ampthill, by exchange with the late Duke of Bedford.

AMPTHILL,

AMPTHILL,

Anciently Ametulle, in the hundred of Redbourn-stoke, and deanery of Flitt, is a small town, pleasantly situated near the centre of the county between two hills.

The town has been much improved, of late years, by the removal of some old houses, which stood very incommodiously in the market-place, and by the erection of a handsome market-house. The principal streets are well built and regular, intersecting each other at right angles, and contain many good houses. Near the middle of the town, where the old houses above-mentioned were situated, is an obelisk of Portland stone, in which is a pump built for the use of the inhabitants, by the Earl of Upper Ossory, in 1785.

There is no town-hall or other public building. The court of honour is held in an old room called the Moot House. The assizes are said to have been held at Ampthill, and in this apartment, in the year 1684, having been removed hither through the interest of the Earl of Aylesbury.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, there were then 237 inhabited houses, within the parish of Ampthill, and 1234 inhabitants.

The parish Church is a handsome Gothic structure. It contains a mural monument, in memory of Robert Nichols, of Ampthill, who was governor of Long Island after the expulsion of the Dutch. He was gentleman of the bed-chamber to the Duke of York, and was killed, while attending his Royal Highness, in the famous engagement between the fleets of England and Holland, May 28, 1672. A cannon ball, said to be that which occasioned his death, is inlaid in the marble of the monument. Within the pediment, and on the moulding, is this inscription:

“ Instrumentum

“Instrumentum mortis Immortalitatis.”

(The instrument of Death and Immortality.)

In the parish of Ampthill, about a mile from the town, there is an hospital or alms-house, for twelve poor men, and a reader, and four poor women, founded and endowed in 1690, by Mr. John Cross, sometime principal of New Inn Hall, Oxford. The reader has a salary of 15*l.* besides his lodgings; the others have 10*l.* each. The vice-chancellor of the university of Oxford, and the bishop of that diocese, are visitors.

There is also a school for thirteen children.

About two miles east from Ampthill is MAULDEN, a small village in the hundred of Redbornstoke, and deanery of Flitt. The Church contains some memorials of the ancient family of Talbo, who were settled here before the reign of Edward III. Adjoining the church is an octagonal mausoleum, erected in the year 1656, by Thomas Earl of Elgin, to the memory of Diana, his second wife, daughter of Lord Burleigh, and relict of John Earl of Oxford. His tomb of white marble is placed in the centre; on it is a sarcophagus, from which rises the figure of the countess in her shroud. The mausoleum is surrounded by niches, intended for the statues of her descendants. In one of them is the statue of her husband, who died in the year 1663. On the floor is a bust of his grandson, Edward Bruce, Esq. eldest son of Robert Lord Bruce. Underneath the mausoleum is a Columbarium, the burial-place of the Earl of Aylesbury's family.

At ROKESAC or RUXOX, a hamlet in the parish of Flitwick, about three miles south from Ampthill, there was formerly a small monastery, which appears to have been a cell to Dunstable.

The chapel of St. Nicholas de Rokesac, was founded by Philip de Sannerville, about the year
1170,

1170, and dedicated by Robert de Chesney, bishop of Lincoln.

William Earl of Albermarle, and Hawin his wife, granted the site of Rokesac to the canons of Dunstable and the canons of Rokesac. There are at present no remains of the conventual buildings. The site is moated.

About a mile and a half from Flitwick is WESTON ING, a small village in the hundred of Manshead, and deanery of Flitt. This was formerly a market-town: its market was held on Monday, granted in the year 1304, by Edward I. with an annual fair on the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the martyr. The market has been long disused.

TODDINGTON,

About seven miles from Ampthill, is a small market town, situated in the hundred of Manshead. The market was originally held on Thursdays, by charter from King Henry III. granted in the year 1218. In 1316 it was changed to Saturday, by grant of King Edward II. which was afterwards confirmed by King Richard II. in 1385.

The market was formerly much more considerable than it is at present. In 1681 it is said there were 16 butchers under stalls in the market-place. It has gradually declined, and is at present nearly discontinued. In 1799 the market-house being very much out of repair was pulled down, and the materials sold. Toddington is not included by Leland, in his list of the market towns of this county. By the charters of 1218 and 1316 above mentioned, a fair on the festival of St. George was granted. The present fairs are five in number, viz. April 25th, the first Monday in June, September 4th, November 2d, and December 16th.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, Toddington appears to have then contained 360 houses, and 1143 inhabitants.

The

The parish Church is a handsome Gothic structure ; the frieze on the outside is decorated with various grotesque figures of animals. In the south transept are some ancient monuments of the Peyvres. One of them appears to have been a crusader. There are also monuments of Ann, wife of Sir Thomas Cheney, K. G. 1561; Henry Lord Cheney, 1587, and his widow, Jane Lady Cheney, 1614. On each side of these were effigies of the deceased, now much mutilated, and lying on the ground, mingled with the broken ornaments of the tombs and the dung of birds.

The costly monument of Henrietta, Lady Wentworth, who died in 1686, upon which 2000*l.* was expended, and another monument, which appears to have been equally magnificent, in memory of Lady Maria Wentworth, who died at the premature age of 18, in the year 1632, are also going rapidly to decay.

On the monument of Lady Maria Wentworth is the following quaint but beautiful epitaph :

“ Maria Wentworth, illustris: Thomæ Comitis Cleveland, Filia Præmortua Prima Animam Virgineam Exhalavit Janver; Camo Dui, 1682. Ætat. sud. 13.

“ And here the pretious duste is layde,
Whose puerile tempered clay was made,
So fine that it the guest betray'd.

Else the soule grew so fast within,
It broke the outward shell of sinne,
And so was hatched a cherubim,

In height it soar'd to God above,
In depth it did to knowledge move,
And spread in breadth in general love.

Before a pious dutye shin'd
To parents; curtesie, behind;
On either side an equal mind.

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Good

Good to the poore, to kindred deare,
To servants kinde, to friendshippe cleare,
To nothing but herself severe.

Soe though a virgin yet a bride,
To every grace she justified
A chaste poligamie, and dyed."

In the chancel is the monument of Giles Bruce, eldest son of Sir John Bruce of Winham in Suffolk, who died at Toddington in 1595, being on a visit to his sister Alice, then *attending* on the Lady Cheney.

Sir John Broughton founded an hospital at Toddington, in the year 1443, in honour of St. John the Baptist, for three poor men and a master, or chaplain, who were to pray for the souls of Thomas Peyvre, and Margaret his wife and their ancestors. There are no remains of the building; the materials were used in the construction of the market-house, which was lately pulled down.

The manor of Toddington was given by William the Conqueror to Ernulfus de Hesdin, ancestor of the Earls of Perche.

In the early part of the reign of Henry III. it was held by Paulinus Peyvre, steward of the household to the king. He was a man of low origin, and when he first arrived at court was not possessed of two caracutes of land, but by means, lawful and unlawful, according to Matthew Paris, acquired so much wealth that he soon became possessed of more than 500 caracutes; he built a most magnificent house at Toddington, with a chapel, chambers, and other buildings, covered with lead, to the great admiration of the beholders. His workmen were paid 100s. and more than six marks a week for their wages. The site of this noble mansion is not at present to be discovered. It is possible that it may have been on a mount, near the church called Conger Hill, which appears to have been the keep of a castellated

castellated mansion, there are considerable earth-works near it. Sir Paulinus Peyvre died in 1251.

A noble mansion was built by Lord Cheney at Toddington, about half a mile from the church, of which at present the kitchen only remains; this apartment is remarkably spacious; it has two fire places, each 12 feet in width; there are also a few rooms fitted up as a farm-house. It appears, by an ancient plan of the house, that it occupied four sides of a quadrangle, at each corner of which was a turret; the north and south fronts were 210 feet in length; the chapel was 30 feet by 24, the tennis court 65 feet in length, and a marble gallery 58.

CHALGRAVE, a small village, about a mile from Toddington, the manor was held under the Beauchamps, in the twelfth century, by the family of Loring. In the year 365, it became the principal residence and retirement of Sir Nigel, or Neale Loring, who was knighted by King Edward III. for his bravery in a sea-fight at Sluys in the year 1340. He attended that monarch in his glorious campaign in France, in the year 1359, and was of the knights companions of the noble order of the garter, at its original institution. Sir Nigel had the royal licence to inclose a park at Chalgrave.

The parish Church, is an ancient Gothic structure, appropriated in the twelfth century to the priory of Dunstaple, by Rose Loring, lessee of the manor. Sir Nigel Loring founded a chantry in this church. There are two ancient altar tombs, one on each side the nave, with effigies in stone of knights in armour, with mail gorgets.

At TEBWORTH, a considerable hamlet in Chalgrave parish, there was anciently a chapel, endowed with thirty-six acres of land. There are no remains of the chapel, nor has there been any in the memory of man.

About a mile and a half before we reach Dunstable, on the left of our road, is HOUGHTON

REGIS, a small village, in the hundred of Manshead. The manor, as the name imports, was an anciently part of the royal demesne.

In the parish Church is an ancient monument, with the effigies of a man in armour, under a richly ornamented Gothic arch. The parish of Houghton Regis is one of the most extensive in Bedfordshire ; upon the inclosure, which took place in the year 1796, the commons and waste-lands were estimated at 4000 acres.

DUNSTABLE, OR DUNSTAPLE,

Is a considerable market town, in the hundred of Manshead, and in the deanery to which it gives name, upon the great road from London to Chester and Holyhead. It is a town of great antiquity, and was a British settlement prior to the invasion of the Romans, and afterwards a principal station of that people, being situated at the intersection of the then two main roads the *Watling* and *Icening* streets. In the Itinerary of Antoninus this station is called *Magiovinium*, most probably derived from the British appellation of the town, *Mæs Gwyn*, or the white field, which, according to Mr. Baxter, becomes *Magionuinion*, in the plural, agreeing perfectly with its situation on a chalky soil. The etymology of the name Dunstaple is derived from other sources. According to the monkish legends, the town took this name from Dun, or Dunning, the chief of a banditti that infested this part of the country. It is more probable that it was called Dunstaple from its market or staple on the downs.

It is however certain that Henry I. finding that this neighbourhood was much infested by robbers, who secreted themselves in the woods, with which the country was then overrun, was induced to attempt a second colonization of this spot. To effect his purpose the monarch ordered the woods to be cut down, and grubbed up, and having built a royal mansion

mansion for his own residence, issued a proclamation inviting his subjects to settle near him at Dunstable, offering them lands at a very small rent, and various liberties and privileges.

The king kept the new town in his own hands till about the year 1131, when he granted it with all its rights and privileges, to a priory of black canons, founded by himself near the royal residence, where in 1123 he kept his Christmas with great splendour, receiving at that time an embassy from the Earl of Anjou. This palace was not included in the grant to the convent. The king kept his Christmas at Dunstable again in the year 1132, as did his successor King Stephen in 1137. In 1154 a friendly meeting took place at Dunstable between Stephen and Henry Duke of Normandy, who succeeded him on the throne.

In 1204 the palace built by Henry I. with the gardens, were granted by King John to the prior and convent, who were to accommodate, upon occasion of all future royal visits, the monarch and his suite within their own walls.

On the site of the palace and gardens is now a farmhouse on the road to Luton, near Mrs. Marsh's hospital.

During the period Henry I. kept the town in his own hands it was a free borough; the burgesses were free throughout England, and possessed the privilege of not answering before the justices itinerant out of the town and liberty. Those judges were to repair to Dunstable and there determine all suits without foreign assessors, by the oath of 12 of the inhabitants.

Upon the foundation of the priory Henry bestowed upon it vast privileges. The whole manor of Dunstable, with the lands pertaining to the town, viz. four cultures of land, together with the church, market, and schools of the said town, with all its liberties and free customs; sac, soc, toe, theam infan-

genethef, güth brith hamsocne clowith, forstall, and Flemens ferd, right of Cavendon, Kensworth, Tottenhoe, and the four ways (*quadraria*) of the said town, with safe passage to the market, under pain of forfeiting ten pounds, were all included in his grant, excepting only his own palace. They were exempted from all taxes of whatever kind, from fines, tolls, customs, secular exactions, and worldly services through the realm. They had the power of life and death, and sat with the king's justices itinerant, when they came to Dunstable on their circuits. They had more than one gaol, for it appears by the chronicle of the priory that their *principal* gaol was rebuilt in the year 1295, and they had a gallows at a place on the outside of the town, called Edescote. These extraordinary privileges, which were confirmed by succeeding princes, caused many disturbances between the townsmen and the residents of the abbey; and some unequal assessments being made in 1229, the people were so provoked that, out of resentment, they withdrew their tithes and offerings, scattered the prior's corn, and pounded his horses; and though at the prior's request, the bishop of Lincoln caused the offenders to be excommunicated in the neighbouring towns and deaneries, all would not do: the townsmen declared they would sooner "go to the devil than be taxed," and had even treated with William Cantilupe, for forty acres in his field to build booths on, and quit the town. This difference was at last adjusted by John, archdeacon of Bedford, the town paying 60*l.* sterling to the prior for the remuneration of his right to all tollage, except the *misericordia* of 4*d.* and fines in cases of violence. During the insurrections in the reign of Richard II. in 1371, the townsmen obtained of the prior a charter of liberties, but it was cancelled afterwards as having been extorted by force.

In the year 1213 the town was destroyed by fire,
but

but was soon after rebuilt. In 1214 the archbishop of Canterbury held a great synod at the priory.

In 1215 King John lay at Dunstable, on his journey towards the north. In the year 1217, Lewis the French Dauphin, with the rebellious English Barons, halted for a night at this town.

In the year 1244, a considerable number of discontented barons and knights assembled at Dunstable and Luton, for the avowed purpose of holding a tournament, but in reality to prosecute their political designs. The tournament was prohibited by royal mandate, but they did not separate before they had given a convincing proof of their formidable power, by sending Sir Fulk Fitzwarren to the Pope's nuncio, whose proceedings had given great offence to the English, with a peremptory order, in the name of the barons and knights, assembled at Dunstable and Luton, that he should instantly quit the kingdom. An order which the nuncio, finding the royal authority insufficient to protect him, was obliged to obey.

It appears by the Chronicle of Dunstable, that King Henry III. frequently visited the convent. In the year 1247, he was there with his Queen, Prince Edward, and Princess Margaret ; upon this occasion their majesties were presented with a gilt cup, and the prince and princess with a gold buckle each.

In 1265 their majesties again visited Dunstable, attended by Cardinal Attoboni, the Pope's legate, and Simon Montfort Earl of Leicester, and remained there some time.

In the year 1276 the king's falconers, having had an affray with the chaplains and the prior's servants, with whom they lodged, the king attended in person to try the matter, and summoned a jury of thirty-six men out of two hundreds, unconnected with the town or the convent to enquire into the affair — Upon the inquisition it appeared that the affray had
been

been begun by the falconers, who had killed one of the chaplains in the riot.

In the year 1290 the corpse of Queen Eleanor, was deposited one night at the priory of Dunstable; upon this occasion two bawdekyns, or precious cloths, were given to the convent and 120 pounds weight of wax. As the procession passed through the town, the bier stopped in the middle of the market place, whilst a proper spot was marked out by the chancellor and nobility attending for the erection of a cross; the prior of the convent assisting at the ceremony, and sprinkling the ground with holy water.— This cross remained until the time of the Civil Wars, when it was demolished by the soldiers under the Earl of Essex, who were quartered at Dunstable in 1643.

A grand tournament was held at Dunstable in the year 1341, at which King Edward III. and his Queen were present.

We have no account of any other royal visit to Dunstable, excepting that of King Henry VI. in 1457 and of Queen Elizabeth on her progress in 1572.

At the dissolution of religious houses, the revenues of the priory of Dunstable were estimated, according to Dugdale, at 344l. 13s. 3d. clear yearly value. The last prior was Gervas Maskum, who with his canons subscribed to the king's supremacy in 1524. He had taken an active part in the proceedings relative to the divorce between King Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon his Queen: the commissioners sat at Dunstable priory, and the sentence of divorce was publicly pronounced by Archbishop Cranmer, on the twenty-third of May 1553, in the Virgin's Chapel within the Priory Church. After the dissolution of this convent, Prior Markham had a pension of sixty pounds per annum. He died in the month of September 1561, and was buried

buried at Dunstable as appears by the parish register.

The site of the priory was granted in 1554, to Dr. Leonard Chamberlaine. It is at present the property and residence of Colonel Maddison.

All that remains of the conventual buildings (excepting what is now the parish church) are some rooms, with vaulted and groined stone roofs ; one of which has been converted into a parlour.

The conventual church was originally in form of a cross, with a tower in the centre, supported by four lofty arches, parts of which, belonging to the two western pillars, still remain. These pillars are of considerable size, composed of clustered columns surmounted with hexagonal capitals. The whole structure appears to have been upon a very extensive and magnificent plan. It is said that Henry the Eighth intended to have made it a cathedral, and erected it into a see, of which Dr. Day was to have been the first bishop ; upon this design being abandoned, a considerable part of the conventual church was pulled down, as all that remains at present is the nave and two side aisles, or that part extending from the west door to the cross aisle or choir entrance, a space extending in length about forty yards.

A combination of various styles of ancient architecture is exhibited in these remains. The inside is chiefly Norman, and undoubtedly part of the original structure. On each side the nave are six circular arches, of considerable height ; they consist of four mouldings, with a pilaster in the middle, between each arch. The arches of the upper windows are also circular, as well as the ground arches at the east end. The windows are of a later date than the building itself, which has been repaired with brick in various places. The east end is crossed by a flat wall, and the two nearest arches on each side form the present choir. A beautiful stone rood loft,
of

of four pointed arches, with clustered columns ranging over the west door: beneath it is a rich wooden screen. The roof is of oak, finely carved with knots of flowers, &c. The beams are supported by angels, horizontal and perpendicular. About the church are several grotesque figures.

The west front is singular and picturesque, and has been considered "as one of our great national curiosities," from its extraordinary mixture of circular and pointed arches, and the singular arrangement of the ornaments. The great door is under a semi-oval arch, with four pillars on each side, which have Saxon capitals, supporting five mouldings, the outermost of which is ornamented with zig-zag work: the second has angels and foliage in alternate ovals: the third beasts heads, fissant foliage: the fourth, a spread eagle, and the signs of the zodiac, of which Pisces and Capricorn, are still remaining: the fifth flowers, &c. The capitals have David playing on the harp, a figure prostrate before him: a bishop in his robes, with a mitre and crosier, and a bearded man in a cap: two more bearded men hold a scroll perpendicularly, on whose top is a headless beast, &c.

The lesser door has seven mouldings, on five pillars, exclusive of the inner, composed of roses, and laced work, nail headed quatrefoils. The arch between the two doors is half a zig-zag and half a straight moulding; and the interlaced arches within rest on capitals charged with grotesque figures.—The columns consist of very singular greater and lesser joints, placed alternate, not unlike one species of the fossils called *Entrochi*. The space over the small door is ornamented by various compartments of carved work representing flowers. Above the doors are rows of arches; the first row consists of seven flat arches, with pedestals for statues: the second, of six small and two large, open to a gallery leading to the Bell Tower, with a seventh arch
between

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

between the latter, placed over the door, all on treble clustered pillars. The third row has five pointed flat arches with single pillars. Over the west door, under the arch, are three ornamental niches ; and under the west windows of the tower are four roses in squares.

The tower is at the north-west angle of the building, and has two rows of niches, which were formerly filled with statues. There was anciently another tower on the opposite side corresponding with this. The turret of the remaining tower, inclosing a staircase, projects a little beyond the west end face. Mr. Pennant thinks that this and the corresponding tower were those mentioned to have fallen down in the year 1221, when they destroyed the prior's stall and part of the church. The chronicle of Dunstable, says, " the body of the church was repaired in 1273 by the parishioners, but one Henry Chadde was the principal contributor." It does not mention the rebuilding of any tower.

The church contains several curious monuments, many of them in memory of the *Chew* family, whose benefactions to this town have caused their names to be repeated with reverence.

In the middle aisle was formerly a long slab, upon which was inscribed an epitaph so quaint and ambiguous that it gave rise to the incredible report of one woman having had nineteen children at five births : viz. three several times three children at a birth, and twice five two other times." It was first recorded in Hakervill's Apology, page 258 ; Fuller in his Worthies of Bedfordshire gave currency to the error, and the tradition of the place has ever since continued. Upon the slab were inlaid the figures of a man and woman, in brass, both dressed in gowns, with their hands in the attitude of prayer, at their feet was the inscription. Beneath the latter were two groups, one of boys and the other of girls, with the types of the evangelists at the corners. The inscription,
tion,

tion, as given by Browne Willis, in the appendix to Hearne's edition of the Chronicles of Dunstaple, was in these words :

“ Hic William Mulso sibi quem sociavit et Alice
Marmore sub duro conclusit moro generalis.
Ter tres, bis quinos hæc natos fertur habere,
Per sponso binos. Deus hic clemens miserere.”

Which literally translated is as follows ; “ One general fate has inclosed here under a hard marble, William Mulso and Alice his wife ; she is reported to have had three times three, and twice five children by two husbands.” This conceited mode of informing the world that a woman had 19 children, undoubtedly gave rise to the mistake of their having been produced at *five* births.

Various stone coffins, one with a chalice and pattery, have been found by different persons digging for stone, on the site of the ancient eastern part of the church. In 1745 Mr. Willis informed the Society of Antiquaries that at the east end of Dunstable Church, about two feet under ground, and about three feet from a side wall, and the feet close to a cross wall, was found a stone coffin, the lid composed of four stones, the piece at the foot a separate one, the head, sides, and bottom of one stone ; under the head an eminence, instead of a pillow, in a hollow or niche corresponding with the head. The skeleton was entire, except the ribs which had fallen in. The head inclined to the left ; between the upper bone of the left arm and the back bone was a glass urn fallen down, and the lid off, stained with deep brown on the inner side of that part which lay over the stone ; about the feet were pieces of leather, very rotten, which by the holes appeared to have been sewed together.

Over the altar is a large and handsome painting of the Lord's Supper, by Sir James Thornhill, which with the plate and a rich pulpit cloth, was presented
to

to the parish by two sisters Mrs. Cart and Mrs. Ashton, in the year 1720.

In the church of Dunstable there was formerly a fraternity of St. John the Baptist. Mr. Edward Steele, in the collection made for a history of Dunstable in 1714, describes a very richly embroidered altar cloth. "It is made of the richest crimson and gold brocade imaginable, and so exquisitely and curiously wrought, that it puzzles the greatest artists of weaving now living to so much as guess at the manner of its performance. It is six feet four inches long, by two feet two inches broad; from whence hangs down a border of purple velvet, thirteen inches deep, whereon is lively and most richly worked with a needle, Saint John the Baptist, between fourteen men and thirteen women, all kneeling. Under the foremost is written Henry Fayrey and Agnes Fayrey, between the arms of the Mercers. Thus are the sides: at the ends is only St. John between a gentleman and his wife. Under is written John and Mary Fayrey."

This is said to have been given by the above mentioned Henry Fayrey and Agnes his wife to the fraternity. It appears from a monumental stone in the middle aisle of the church that this Henry Fayrey, died the 28th December, 1516. Yet, notwithstanding its age, the pall is as fresh and beautiful as at its first making. It is now in the possession of John Miller, Esq. of Bedford. Some years ago, by permission of Mr. Miller's family, who then resided at Dunstable, it was used as a funeral pall. The house occupied by the fraternity belonged to the Wingate family in 1642.

Mr. Steele in his Collections also takes notice of some curious ornaments, about various parts of Dunstable Church. "The east part of the chancel," says this gentleman, "is raised by two steps, and was formerly the choir of the church, the ancient stalls still remaining, where under each seat (visible upon turning them up when kneeling to prayers) is
I carved

carved some extravagant fancy, plainly discovering the humour of those times: but I must not omit, that, under the seat of the east stall on the south side is neatly cut a woman spinning, with a rock and spindle; and on the ground lies a sneering friar preacher, whilst his busy and inquisitive hand is searching under her petticoats; a very improper and scandalous decoration for so sacred a place."

Besides the priory there was a convent of friars-preachers or black friars, established at Dunstable, in the year 1259, sorely against the will of the prior and canons, and it was no doubt their hostility towards these intruders that occasioned the caracatures above mentioned. The friars, however, being patronised by the court it was in vain to oppose them. Upon the suppression of this house the yearly revenue of these friars amounted to no more than 4l. 18s. 4d. The site was granted to Sir William Herbert. It is supposed to have been in a field of Mrs. Fossay's near her house, situated west of the pond in the south street of Dunstable.

There was also a house or hospital for lepers, belonging to the prior and canons of Dunstable, who appointed the warden. It existed as early as the 13th century.

The town of Dunstable is situated on the side of the Chiltern Hills, and consists of four principal streets, intersecting each other in the form of a cross. The houses are chiefly of brick, and some of them have a very ancient appearance. Dunstable was for a long time supplied with water for culinary purposes by large ponds, which received the rain water from the surrounding hills; but at present there are many wells, which afford plenty of excellent water.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, the town of Dunstable then contained 243 houses, and 1296 inhabitants.

The principal business of the town arises from its
thoroughfare

thoroughfare situation. The lower classes of the inhabitants derive a considerable part of their support from the straw manufacture, in which it is said they excel all the world. A whiting manufactory affords them some additional employment. In the straw-work a woman can earn from 6s. to 12s. a week, and children from 3s. to 4s. in the same time.

In former times Dunstable was famous for its breweries: we are informed by Hollinshed that William Murlie, an eminent brewer of this town, sallied out in the reign of Henry V. to join the insurrection of the Lollards near London; he took with him a pair of gilt spurs, and was followed by two led horses, with rich trappings. This probably gave rise to the report of his expecting to receive the honour of knighthood from Lord Cobham; but instead of this, he had the hard fortune to be taken and hung with his gilt spurs about his neck.

By the charter of King Henry I. there were two markets granted to the town, and a fair at the festival of St. Peter, to whom the priory was dedicated. The market was then held on Sundays and Wednesdays. Another fair on the feast of St. Fremund was granted by King John.

The chronicle of the priory records a great loss sustained by the market in the year 1294, from the long stay of Prince Edward at Langley, his kitchen consuming more than 200 messes a day, and his servants taking up all the butter, cheese, eggs, and other commodities brought to the market, and even from the tradesmen's houses, and paying for nothing.

There is at present only one market, which is held on Wednesday: and four fairs, Ash Wednesday, May 22, August 12, and November 12.

In the reign of Henry II. Dunstable had a summons to send representatives to parliament, but none were ever sent.

The municipal government is at present vested in

four constables, but was formerly, according to the *Chronicles of Dunstable*, directed by a mayor ; as also appears from a passage in “ the Customs of Dunstable,” published by Mr. Hearne.

The principal of these customs are the following : “ Shopkeepers may not brew for fear of fire, nor drive stakes without leave of the mayor. The townsmen and strangers must carry away the booths the same day they set them up in the market. No traders of this and other towns may buy victuals before one o’clock, nor go to meet the sellers out of the town. *Bread* made for sale at the price of a *farthing* must be sold at the same price ; and in like manner, also when four gallons are worth a *penny*. When a widow loses her free-bench she must deliver up to the heir the fixtures fastened to the land, also the principal table with stools ; the best wine cask, tub, basons, hatchet, best cup, coulter, and share, and the bucket of the well with the rope. Other chattels she may dispose of by will or gift, and she is not to answer for waste, unless such waste be done after the king’s prohibition.”

A Charity School was built and endowed in this town, by Mrs. Frances Ashton, Mrs. Jane Cart, and Mr. Thomas Aynscombe, who died in the year 1712. By two indentures, bearing date 1724 and 1727, this school is endowed with lands in Caddington, Luton, Houghton Regis, Flamstidde, Totenhoe, and Whipnade. A salary of 40*l.* per annum is paid to the master for teaching 40 boys, and 37*l.* per annum is allowed for their clothing. Seven trustees have the management of the charity. If a sufficient number of boys for the object of this charity should not be found in the parish of Dunstable, they may be taken from the parishes of Caddington, Kensworth, Ellesborough, Houghton Regis, or Luton. The rents of the charity estates have of late years so much increased that the trustees are enabled to clothe, educate, and apprentice 40 boys, and 15 girls.

Mrs.

Mrs. Cart and Mrs. Ashton, each founded an Almshouse for six poor widows. The latter lady, by her will dated in 1727, bequeathed lands for the purpose of raising the annual sum of six pounds, to be paid to each of the poor women in her almshouse, to buy them a gown, firing, and other necessaries. The residue, after deducting the expence of repairs, and discharging some other charitable bequests, to be divided in equal portions between the six poor women.

In the year 1713, Mrs. Blandina Marsh built some neat houses, for the residence of six decayed maiden gentlewomen, which by her benefaction, and that of another lady, are endowed with an annual income of nearly 180l. for their support.

The following singular appearance of the heavens is mentioned by several of our ancient chronicles, particularly Knyghton, Brompton, and Hemingford, to have been seen at Dunstable, in the year 1189. The account, as given by the latter writer, translated into English is as follows :

“ Of the appearance of the Cross in the sky at Dunstable, 1189.”

“ A stupendous prodigy, which about this time was seen by many in England, must not be passed over in silence. Upon the high road which leads towards London, there is a street of no mean fame, named Dunestabell. There, while about noon they were looking up towards heaven, they saw in the height of a serene sky the form of our Lord's banner, conspicuous by its milky brightness, and the form of a man crucified joined thereto, such as is painted in the church in memory of the Lord's Passion, and for the devotion of the faithful. Then, when this dreadful figure had appeared a short time, and closely attracted the eyes and hearts of the beholders, the form of the cross was seen to recede from him who seemed affixed thereto, so that an intermediate space of the sky might be observed, and soon after

this astonishing thing disappeared. Let every one explain as he thinks fit this wonderful sign, of which I am to be considered as a mere reporter, not as an expounder of omens ; for what it is the divine pleasure to signify I know not."

There is no doubt but that this phenomenon was one of those instances common in Italy, and other parts of the globe, where vapours rising from the sea, and floating in the air, assume by reflection a variety of forms, singular as well as common. Sometimes the sky has had the appearances of an armed phalanx of men, drawn up in martial order to oppose an hostile band, which appears to confront them ; at other times the clouds put on the shape of an immense city full of houses, churches, and palaces, which seem to vary their appearances at pleasure, till the power of the sun dissolves the visionary illusion.

About a mile and a half from Dunstable is a circular earth-work, about two thousand five hundred feet in circumference, called *Maiden Bower*. It is only half a mile from the *Watling Street*, at the edge of a low range of the Chiltern Hills. It consists of a single vallum and ditch, thrown upon a level plain. To the south and east it has no ditch ; to the south and west only a very small one ; to the north-west a descent to the meadows. The banks are from eight to fourteen feet high, and contain about nine acres of level ploughed land, producing good wheat. This is supposed by some of our antiquaries to have been a British fortification, but Dr. Salmon imagines it to have been inclosed by the Saxons, as a place for female exercises ; and that it was surrounded by a vallum to keep the crowd at a proper distance.—
Arbury Banks, near *Ashwell* in *Hertfordshire*, is said by Dr. Stukely to be a work of a similar kind to this of *Maiden Bower*. After mentioning two other works of the same nature, one on *Wilbury Hill* near

near Ickleford, the other between Chipping Norton and Stow-in-the-Wolds, and a long barrow, called the Mill Bank near Dunstable, he adds, "A high prominence of the Chiltern Hills overlooks all, called the *Five Knolls*, from that number of barrows or Celtic tumuli, which are round, pretty large, ditched about, upon the very apex of the hill. Close by is a round cavity, as often observed in Wiltshire." This is called Pascomb Pit, and is a great hollow in the downs; where, according to tradition, a church was intended to have been erected, but that the materials were invisibly removed as fast as they were brought together.

About half a mile westward from Maiden Bower, about two miles north-west from Dunstable is TOTTENHOE CASTLE, situated on the downs above Tottenhamhoe. It consists of a lofty circular mount, with a slight vallum round its base, and a larger one, of an irregular form, at some distance from it. On the south-east side is a camp, in the form of a parallelogram about five hundred feet in length, and two hundred and fifty in breadth; three sides of which are defended by a vallum and ditch, very perfect on the south-east side. The south-west side being on the edge of a precipice has no vallum. It is supposed that the irregular fortress first mentioned was British, and that the adjoining works were added by the Romans, whose stations of *Durocibrivæ* has by some been fixed at Dunstable. The ground round about the mount has been much broken by digging; and in one place there seems to have been a well. At the bottom of it passes Ikenild Street, on the north side of the church coming through Stretley.

A little to the east of Tottenhamhoe Castle is a large work for lime and free stone, which rises in large blocks, and becomes very white, but is soft. They descend by winding ways to a great depth, and find a bed of clay under both.

We have already mentioned that the ancient roads, called Ikening Street and the Watling Street, intersect each other at Dunstable ; the former of these appears to have been the tract way of the ancient Britons. It is not so direct in its line as the Roman roads generally are, nor does it in its original state lead through Roman towns ; and it does not appear to have been ever raised or paved, the peculiar and infallible mark of the roads constructed by the Romans. It derived its name from the *Iceni*, the inhabitants of the eastern counties of England. After passing through these, and a part of Hertfordshire, it enters this county near Ickleford, a mile north of Hitchin, and crosses the turnpike road from Luton to Bedford, about the 16th mile stone : about three miles north-east from this point, near Hexton, there is a square Roman camp, called Ravensbury, double ditched, on a high point among hills. From hence a branch bears to the right, passing through Great Bramingham and Houghton, to the British town of Maiden Bower ; while the principal road continues on the side of the hills, between Great Bramingham and Limberly, over Seagrave Marsh, through the present town of Dunstable, where it crosses the Watling Street, and soon after enters Buckinghamshire.

The ancient way called the Watling Street is also supposed to have been another British road, traversing the island from the Kentish coast to the country of the Guetheli, the remains of the old Celtic inhabitants of England, who had been driven by powerful and successive invaders to the extremity of Wales, and to the opposite shore of Ireland. It is expressly called *Via Guethelinga*, or the road of the Guetheli, by Richard of Cirencester in his itinerary. The Romans made use of the whole of this road, from the coast to Wroxeter, with little variation. It is carried through well-known Roman towns, at regular distances, bears directly to its point, and
whenever

whenever it is left by the modern turnpike road it still shews an elevated crest; the original pavement is also discovered in many places, though sometimes, where it has passed over a mossy soil, such pavement is beneath the present surface. It enters this county about three miles south-east from Dunstable, in its way from St. Alban's to Stony Stratford, and quits it a little beyond the 42d mile stone, having passed through Dunstable, which we have already observed was a Roman station. In the Itinerary of Richard it is called *Forum Dianæ*, which proves it to have been a considerable mart for trade, for which its situation at the intersection of two great roads, each extending over so great a portion of the island, was particularly convenient.

There is a third ancient road, which enters this county at Baldock, and was a Roman military way; this we shall more particularly notice in a subsequent journey.

About four miles from Dunstable, on the road to London, is the small town of MERGATE, Markyate, or Market Street; which, though generally regarded as being in Bedfordshire, is in fact situated both in this and the adjoining shire of Hertford. The counties here intersect each other in a singular manner; the boundaries being so irregular that the three hamlets which compose the town appear to be seated near the extreme point of a neck of land branching out from that portion of the county which is crossed by the Ikeneld Street.

Market Street is in the parishes of Caddington and Studham, and consists of one principal street, about three quarters of a mile in length. According to the returns under the population act in the year 1801, this place then contained only 29 houses and 235 inhabitants. Its principal business arises from the passage of travellers.

The parish of Caddington is in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstable. The Church,
with

with about a fifth part of the parish, is in Bedfordshire, the remainder in the adjoining county of Herts.

In a wood near Market Street, on the Hertfordshire side of the parish of Caddington, is *Market Cell*, the site of a nunnery of the Benedictine order, founded by Geoffry, abbot of St. Albans, about the year 1145, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It was erected on some lands, that were given by the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, London. In *Dugdale's Monasticon* is the following story, relative to its foundation.

“ When Geoffry was abbot of St. Alban's one Roger, a monk of that place, led a most holy hermitical life, near the village called Markyate, in the way to Dunstable. The latter four years of his life, he had in a room separated from his own, the virgin Christina, whom he instructed in such a manner, that she became famous for miracles, which moved the said abbot to build there a residence for her and other nuns that resorted to her ; and the said building happening to be burnt, he again rebuilt the same.”

Upon the suppression of this house its revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 114l. 16s. 1d. per annum. Humphrey, a natural son of Lord Berners, bestowed much cost and art in building a house on this site, but did not live to finish it. In the second year of Edward VI. the site was granted to George Ferrers, whose descendant Sir John Ferrers, died seized of it in 1640. It is at present the property of Joseph Howell, Esq.

In the parish Church of Caddington there are some memorials of the family of Coppin, who for some time resided at Market Cell.

In the parish Church of *Tilsworth*, about three miles north-west from Dunstable are monuments of Sir Henry Chester, K. B. who died in 1666, and some of the Fowler family who in the 16th century possessed

possessed the manor and resided in the parish.— There is also an altar tomb, with the effigies of an ecclesiastic, under a Gothic arch, and a slab with an ancient French inscription, in memory of Adam de Tullesworth.

At EATON BRAY, two miles south-west from Tils-worth, there was anciently a castle, built by the Cantilupes, Barons of Bergavenny, in the year 1221, which was very injurious to the town of Dunstable. In 1513 the manor became the property of Sir Reginal Bray. There are at present no remains of the castle, nor of the mansion of the Brays. A house which was built on the site about a century ago, has lately been pulled down.

In the chancel of the parish Church, there is a monument, in memory of Jane, wife of Edmund Lord Bray, who died in the year 1558. In the south aisle, there are the remains of some stone work, richly carved and ornamented with the royal arms, and the arms and device of Sir Reginald Bray.

Journey from Bedford to Leighton Busard.

About five miles south-west from Bedford is WOOTON, a pleasant village in the hundred of Red-bornstoke. The manor anciently belonged to the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford. At the beginning of the 17th century, it became the property of the Monoux family. Humphrey Monoux, of Wootton, was created a baronet in 1660. It is now the property of his descendant, Sir Philip Monoux, Bart. who resides at Sandy.

In the parish Church are several monuments in memory of the Monoux family, among which are those of all the baronets, and that of Lieutenant Monoux, who was killed in the action with the Duke of Monmouth's army in 1685 ; he was first buried at Chard in Somersetshire, and his body afterwards removed here.

The

The village of MARSTON MORTEYNE, in the hundred of Redbornstoke and deanery of Flitt, about two miles south-west from Wootton, had formerly a market on Tuesdays, and a fair at Lady Day, granted to John de Mortheyne, lord of the manor, in the reign of Edward II.

The parish Church of Marston Mortheyne, is a handsome Gothic building: the tower, which is square and massy, stands detached from it. In the chancel there is an altar tomb, with the effigies on a brass plate of Thomas Reynes, Esq. lord of this manor, who died in 1451, and his wife Alice.

In the parish Church of CRANFIELD, a village two miles westward from Marston Mortheyne, there was anciently a gild or brotherhood, and lands given for a *drinking*, and for the maintenance of a lamp.

Eight miles south-west from Bedford, and about a mile and a half on the left of our road, is the pleasant village of Liddington; where, occupying a farm of the Duke of Bedford, lives the rustic poet Batchelor, author of "Village Scenes." From various situations in this parish there are some remarkably beautiful prospects.

In the parish Church there is an ancient tomb in memory of one of the family of Goldingtons, who possessed the manor of Goldingtons in this parish, with his effigies in armour on a brass plate. The date is imperfect (148 . . .)

In the parish Church of SALFORD, a small village, two miles on the west of our road, on the borders of Buckinghamshire, there are some ancient monuments of a family, who bore for their arms a plain chevron. One of them has the effigies of a crusader, with an angel at his head, and two lions at his feet, under an ogee arch, richly ornamented.

ASPLEY GUISE, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Flitt, about two miles north of Woburn, had formerly a market on Fridays; for which it had a charter granted to Anselm de Gyse, lord of the
manor

anciently a castle, which existed as late as the year 1276, and was then the seat of the Wahuls, who then possessed the manor.

BROGBOROUGH PARK, in this parish, is now the property of the Right Honourable Lady Frances Radcliff, relict of the late John Radcliff, Esq. The mansion house has been long neglected.

BICKERING'S PARK, belongs to Delmé Radcliff, Esq.

There was formerly a church as SEGENHOE, which has been demolished.

In the parish Church of HUSBAND-CRAWLEY, a village about a mile south from Ridgemont, there is a handsome monument, with the effigies of a knight in armour, and his lady, under a canopy supported by Doric columns; it has no inscription, but there are the arms of the Thompson family, who were lords of the manor in the 17th century.

WOBURN,

Is a small market town, two miles south from Aspley Guise, in the hundred of Manshead, and deanery of Flitt, and situated on the great road from London to Manchester and Leeds. The present town has been chiefly built since the year 1754, when upwards of 100 houses were consumed by fire. It had previously in the year 1595 suffered severely by fire. A new market-house was finished in the year 1737.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, Woburn then contained 277 houses, and 1563 inhabitants.

The market was granted in the year 1242, to the abbot of Woburn, to be held on Fridays. There are four annual fairs, January 1, March 23, July 13, and September 25.

In the year 1572 this place was visited by Queen Elizabeth; and on the 26th August, 1645, King Charles I. halted here on his route from Wales to Oxford,

Oxford, and slept at the house of the Earl of Bedford, who was then in the service of the parliament.

The parish Church has been lately repaired ; it contains several ancient monuments. The tower stands detached from the rest of the building, at the north-west corner.

Adjoining the church-yard is the Free School founded by Francis, Earl of Bedford, who died in 1582. In 1622 Francis Lord Russel gave a salary of 10*l.* per annum to the master, which has been since increased to 135*l.*

There is an alms-house in this parish for 12 poor persons, founded by the Bedford family. It is endowed with 30*l.* per annum.

An abbey of Cistercian monks was founded at Woburn, by Hugh de Bolebec, in the year 1145. In 1234 this monastery was broken up through poverty, and the monks dispersed into different convents till their debts were discharged. By subsequent benefactions, however, their revenues were so much improved that at the general dissolution of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. they were estimated at 39*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* The last abbot was hanged at Woburn for denying the king's supremacy. The site of the abbey was granted in the first year of Edward VI. with many other ecclesiastical estates, to John Lord Russel, afterwards Earl of Bedford, a gentleman who was honoured with several employments by Henry VIII. and it has ever since been the chief seat of that noble family. There are no remains of the conventual buildings.

“ On pulling down part of the abbey, in 1744, a corpse was found, with the flesh so firm as to bear cutting with a knife, though it must have been buried at least 200 years. Some time after, on pulling down part of one of the walls of the abbey church, a stone coffin was found, which consisted of several loose stones set in the ground, and a very large oblong
K 2
purbeck

purbeck stone, was dug up, which had been ornamented with brass, under it were some bones. In sinking a cellar six more stone coffins were found; one of which was very large, being, in the inside, six feet eight inches long: they all had a place shaped for a head, and all or most of them had two or three holes at the bottom, their covers made of several stones. Near them two pots or urns were found, which probably contained the bowels of those who were buried there. On a skull belonging to some bones, which lay in a stiff blue clay, there was some black cloth, which might be the cap of one of the monks. Pieces of shoes were also taken up. A large piece of a body had the flesh remaining, which looked white both on the outside and inside, as if time had not penetrated its substance, and it was tough when cut with a knife.

WOBURN HOUSE was almost wholly rebuilt by Flitcroft, for John Duke of Bedford, about the middle of the last century. This extensive and magnificent building, situated in the midst of a large park, occupies four sides of a quadrangle. It has experienced many considerable alterations and improvements, particularly during the time it was in the possession of his grace the late Duke of Bedford. The additional buildings were designed and executed under the direction of Mr. Holland, the architect of Drury Lane Theatre. The west front is of the Ionic order, with an insulated basement. The principal floor or suite of rooms on this side, consists of a saloon, state bed room, drawing and dining rooms. The south contains the library, breakfast, etruscan, and duke's rooms. The east the vestibule, servants' offices, &c. and the north the French bed-rooms, and various other chambers. The state apartments are fitted up in a stile of costly magnificence. The gallery exhibits a large and most interesting collection of portraits, and many fine paintings are dispersed in other rooms.

rooms. Mr. Pennant gives the following description of the most remarkable:

“ The first which struck me was a lady, who defied the strictest scrutiny ; a small full-length, in widow’s weeds, with her head on her hand, and a book by her ; with a countenance full of deep and silent sorrow : the sad relict of the virtuous Lord RUSSEL, and daughter to the good and great *Wriothesly*, Earl of *Southampton*.

“ I now turn my eyes to a lady, whose felicity consisted in a different fate ; in being early cut off from the embraces of a capricious tyrant, whose inconstancy and whose lusts would probably have involved her in misery, had not Heaven, in its mercy, taken her to itself. Lady *Jane Seymour*, the lady in question, became queen to Henry VIII. in 1536, and was released from him by death in 1537. The portrait expresses the elegance of her person. She is dressed in red, with great gold net work sleeves, and rich in jewels. Her print among the illustrious heads does her little justice.”

“ That gloomy insipid pair, *Philip II.* and his consort *Mary*, are painted in small full-lengths, by Sir *Antonio More*. The first of these ungracious figures is dressed in a black jacket, with gold sleeves and hose : the queen sitting in a black and gold petticoat and furred sleeves. Her black conic cap is faced with gold and jewels. A rich chain of great pearls and small vases, red and gold, are ornaments to our bigotted sovereign. The date is 1553. Sir *Antonio* was sent from *Spain* to draw her picture, so has placed them in a scene of awkward courtship ; for they were not married till the following year. When two such sanguinary hands were joined, it is lucky for mankind that no issue was the consequence. The intrepidity of the Tudors united with the unprincipled policy of Charles V. and Philip, might have depopulated Europe, and formed as desolate a waste of empire as that of the Ottomans.

“ Another remarkable portrait, by the same painter, is that of *Edward Courteney*, last earl of *Devonshire* of his name ; who, for his nearness in blood to the crown, was imprisoned by the jealous *Henry*, from the age of 10 till about that of 28. His daughter *Mary* set him at liberty, and wooed him to share the kingdom with her. He rejected the offer, in preference to her sister *Elizabeth*, for which, and some false suspicion, he suffered another imprisonment with *Elizabeth*. He was soon released. He quitted the kingdom, as prudence directed, and died at the age of 30, at *Padua*.

He is represented as a handsome man, with short brown hair, and a yellow beard, a dark jacket with white sleeves and breeches ; behind him is a ruined tower ; beneath him this inscription, expressive of his misfortunes :

“ En puer et insons et adhuc juvenilibus annis :
 Annos his septem carcere clusus eram.
 Me pater his tenuit vinclis, quæ filia solvit :
 Sors mea sic tandem vertitur a superis.

“ Fourteen long years in strict captivity,
 Tyrant-condemn'd, I pass'd my early bloom,
 Till pity bade the generous daughter free
 A guiltless captive, and reverse my doom.”

R. W.

“ *Sir Philip Sydney* is painted in the 22d year of his age, in a quilled ruff, white slashed jacket : a three-quarter length. He was a deserved favourite of queen *Elizabeth*, who well might think the court deficient without him ; for, to uncommon knowledge, valour, and virtuous gallantry, was joined a romantic spirit, congenial with that of his royal mistress. His romance of *Arcadia* is not relished at present : it may be tedious ; but the morality, I fear, renders it disgusting to our age. It is too replete with innocence to be relished. *Sir Philip* was to the *English*,
 what

what the Chevalier *Bayard* was to the *French*, “*Un Chevalier sans peur, et sans reproche.*” Both were strongly tingured with enthusiastic virtue: both died in the field with the highest sentiments of piety.”

“*Isabella*, daughter to *Henry Benet*, Earl of *Arlington*, and wife to the first Duke of *Grafton*, is represented a half-length, in white, with long flowing hair, very handsome.”

“A capital picture of the Plague. The dead bodies appear infectious by the attitudes of the living. To increase the horror, the artist has placed a live infant by its dead mother: a circumstance not unknown in the dreadful pestilence in London of 1665, By *Nicholas Poussin.*”

A fine view of *Pont Neuf*, with numbers of figures, by *Wovermans*.

A fine landscape by *Claude Lorrain*, with a view of the sea. The figures are shepherds and shepherdesses.

David, and *Abigail* averting his wrath. Her beauty and suppliant looks are admirable. By *Lucca Jordano.*

A *Landscape*, by *G. Poussin*, with the figure of an old man begging.

Four pieces, representing *Alexander's Campaigns*, by old *Parocel*. The first is a repose after a march; he and his companions feasting under a tree. Two others are battles.

A *Landscape*, by *Mr. Gainsborough*; containing cattle, figures, and an ancient tree: a piece that would do credit to the best masters.

A large family picture, by *Jervis*, of *Elizabeth Howland*, Duchess to the first *Wriothesly*, Duke of *Bedford*, in her weeds, with her four children. Above her, in the back part of the picture, hangs the portrait of her lord; the same who built *Covent Garden Church*, and was called the “good duke.”

A full

A full length of a Nobleman, in a hat with a red crown and feather, square black beard, red earrings and stockings; in his robes, with a white rod in his hand. This was brought from Thornhaugh, a seat of the family in Northamptonshire.

Opposite to him is a portrait of a lady, in black, and a red and white petticoat, flat ruff, and a great string of pearls across her breast.

Two children in one piece, Lady *Diana*, and Lady *Anne Russel*, daughters of *William*, first Duke of Bedford. They had the misfortune of being poisoned, by eating some noxious berries, which they met with. Lady Anne died; Lady Diana survived, and is again painted, in more advanced life: by Sir *Peter Lely*.

A man, with his jacket grey, breeches red, short hair, and small beard: a stick in his hand, and helmet by him. Date 1592, æt. 28.

Elizabeth Bruges, or *Bridges*, aged 14, 1589, painted in a flat stile, by *Hieronimo di Gustidio*, of Antwerp. She is represented in black, flowered with white, with full sleeves, a gold chain, a great pearl set in gold on one shoulder, and a gold ornament on the other. This lady was eldest daughter to Giles, Lord Chandos, and wife to Sir John Kennada, Knight: she died childless, the whole fortune of her family devolved to his second sister, Catharine, Countess of Bedford.

A full-length of that fantastic lady, *Lucy*, countess of Bedford, in a dancing attitude, dressed in as fantastic a habit, with an immense transparent veil distended behind her. Her vanity and extravagance met with no check under the rule of her quiet spouse, Edward, Earl of Bedford, whom she survived only one year.

A strange figure of a man, in half-length, in a close black cap, and a letter in his hand, directed to Pr. de Nassau. I am informed by a very able herald, that, from the arms on the picture, the personage

sonage represented is the *Count de Nassau—Uranien Nassau*.

James, Earl of Carlisle, in long hair, buff coat, and sash.

Sir Edward Stradling, of St. Donet's, in South Wales. A head with whiskers, a turnover, and black dress. I imagine him to be the gentleman who had a regiment under Charles I. taken prisoner at the battle of Edgehill, and died on his release at Oxford.

The Angel hastening the departure of *Lot* out of Sodom, by *Rubens*. Small.

Lord Francis Russel, a miniature, in black dress.

Rubens and his two wives. Heads.

A boy and girl; *Murillio*.

The Library, 50 feet long, and $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, with a coved roof, painted by *Cipriana* and *Rebecca*. Apollo and the muses by the first. The other subjects by the latter. Over the bookcases are the portraits of artists; Titian, Rembrandt, Rubens, Tintoret, Teniers, and Kneller, by themselves; the others principally by Vandyck.

In the Green Room is a singular picture of *Ignatius Loyala*, in black, with a dog behind him, kneeling to the apparition of our Saviour in the clouds, by *Bassan*.

Two, by *Rosa di Tivoli*.

An Ascension, a fine piece, by *Sebastian Ricci*. The confusion and terror of the soldiers are inimitably expressed.

A Battle, by *Pandolfo*.

The Castle of St. Angelo, by *Lucatelli*.

A Man's Head, in which is a noble appearance of contrition and hope, by *Balestra*.

An old Woman's Head, by *Guido*.

A fine full-length of a nobleman, in a black and gold vest, and a high-crowned hat in his hand. On the back ground is a curtain, almost concealing a lady, of whom nothing but one hand and a part of her

her petticoat is seen. By this is *Ætatis*. 1614.
Lcy I.

The Music Room is small, but elegant, stuccoed and gilt. Several oval compartments, and prettily filled with paintings in clare obscur, by Cipriani and Rebecca.

A portrait called *Lucy, Countess of Bedford*, in a white satin gown, worked with colours, a laced single ruff, and a long scarlet velvet cloak, hanging gracefully, with one arm folded in it. On her head is a pearl coronet, and pearls on her wrists. In the back ground she appears in a garden in the true attitude of stately disdain, bent half back, in scorn of a poor gentleman bowing to the very ground.

Heads of Lions, by Rubens.

The Israelites carrying the Ark, by Parocel.

A Female Dwarf; dwarf to Catherine, queen to Charles II.

“ In the Upper Dining Room is a full-length portrait of the well-known unfortunate *Robert, Earl of Essex*, in white. The queen’s passion for Essex certainly was not founded on the beauty of his person. His beard was red, his hair black, his person strong, but without elegance, his gait ungraceful. But the queen was far past the heyday of her blood; she was struck with his romantic valour, with his seeming attachment to her person, and, I may add, with the violence of his passions; for her majesty, like the rest of her sex, probably

“ Stoop’d to the forward and the bold.”

“ At length his presumption increased with her favour; her fears overcame her affections, and, after many struggles, at length consigned him to the scaffold; having thoroughly worked himself out of her *gracious conceit*.”

“ *Catherine, Countess of Bedford*, wife to Francis, Earl of Bedford, and daughter to Giles Bruges, third Lord Chandos. Her dress is a pearl coronet, and hair

hair flowing below her waist, a worked gown, and red mantle : a fine full-length."

" *Edward, Earl of Russel* ; sitting. He is dressed in black and gold, with a high-crowned hat ; his hand in a sash, being gouty. This nobleman was an exception to the good understanding this family is blest with ; and unluckily was matched with a lady whose vanity and expences were boundless."

" *Lord Treasurer Burleigh*, the able statesman of Elizabeth ; a favourite, whom she chose, as she expressed it, not for his bad legs, but for his good head. His maxims did not quite agree with those of the ministers of later days ; for he held, *That nothing could be for the advantage of the prince, which makes any way against his reputation* ; wherefore he never would suffer the rents of lands to be raised, nor the old tenants to be put out.

" This great statesman is represented sitting : his countenance comely, his beard grey, his gown black and furred, and adorned with a gold chain. His mistress lost this faithful servant in 1598, aged seventy-seven.

" His second son, *Robert, Earl of Salisbury*, is placed near him, standing : a mean little deformed figure, possessed of his father's abilities, but mixed with deceit and treachery. His services to his master and his country, will give him rank amongst the greatest ministers ; but his share in bringing the great Raleigh to the scaffold ; and the dark part he acted, in secretly precipitating the generous, unsuspecting Essex to his ruin, will ever remain indelible blots on him as a man. His dress is that of the Spanish nation, (though he was averse to its politics) a black jacket and cloak, which adds no grace to his figure."

" Next is the portrait of *Sir William Russel* (afterwards Duke of Bedford), when young. He is dressed in robes of the order of the Bath, leaning on his sword, and by him a dwarf, aged 32. On the picture

ture is inscribed Johannes Priwezer, di Hungaria, fecit 1627 : a painter of merit, but whose works are rare. There is another portrait of him in the gallery, a full-length, in a long wig, and, I think, the robes of the garter."

"*Anne*, daughter of that infamous pair, Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, and his countess, is painted by Vandyck, in blue, drawing on a glove ; a most beautiful half-length. She was the wife of Sir William Russel above-mentioned, married to him in the year 1637. She proved worthy of the alliance she made. It is said she was ignorant of her mother's dishonour, till she read it in a pamphlet she found accidentally left in a window. It is added, that she was so struck with the detection of her parent's guilt that she fell down in a fit, and was found senseless with the book open before her. She died May 10th, 1684. The anecdote is omitted in the histories of the family, probably to avoid the revival of a disgraceful tale. Francis, Earl of Bedford, was so averse to the alliance, that he gave his son leave to chuse a wife out of any family but that. Opposition usually stimulates desire : the young couple's affections were only increased. At length the king interposed, and, sending the Duke of Lenox to urge the Earl to consent, the match was brought about. Somerset, now reduced to poverty, acted a generous part ; selling his house at Chiswick, plate, jewels, and furniture, to raise a fortune for his daughter of twelve thousand pounds, which the Earl of Bedford demanded ; saying that seeing her affections were settled, he chose rather to undo himself than make her unhappy.

" Her father-in-law, the second *Francis, Earl of Bedford*, by Vandyck ; full-length, in black, with light hair and short peaked beard ; painted in 1636, aged 48. He died in 1641, and left behind him a distinguished character. He was of the popular party : but of such an excellent understanding, so
good

good a heart, and of such great moderation, that it is supposed, had he lived, his influence with his friends would have been exerted to have composed the unhappy violences of the times. This was the nobleman who undertook, and succeeded in the arduous attempt of draining the vast fen in Cambridge-shire, called the Great Level, containing 306,000 acres."

In the Saloon is a fine half-length of a man, by Titian.

Cain slaying Abel, by Guido.

A beautiful *Young Woman washing*, with an old man by her. A most pleasing picture, by Le Moine.

Over the chimney is a full-length of the *Earl of Bristol*, and *Sir William Russel* (afterwards Earl Bedford); the former is in black, the other in red. A copy from Vandyck.

Louis the Fifteenth; full length.

Angels flying; a very graceful painting, by Morillo.

The *Last Supper*, by Tintoret.

The Vision of our Saviour's Passion to admiring spectators. God appears above, and angels support the cross. By Luca Jordano.

Two Landscapes, by Poussin.

"In the Blue Drawing Room is an exquisite picture of *Joseph expounding the dream to Pharaoh's baker*. The last sitting with vast and eager attention in his countenance. In Joseph appears great concern, at his assured fore-knowledge of the fatal prediction. By Rembrandt. Near it is a portrait of that great painter, by himself.

In the French Dressing Room is a striking resemblance of the late *Duchess of Bedford*; and in the Gallery is a very fine full-length of her worthy husband, represented sitting in his robes.

A Madonna and Child, by Guercino.

A Magdalene, by An. Caracci

Anne, Countess of Warwick, daughter of the first Francis, Earl of Bedford, and wife to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick. The date is 1600. She is in her full age, and dressed in black and gold, with white and striped sleeves.

“ In the State Dressing Room are numbers of small pieces. A fine landscape, with figures, by Cuyp—Oliver Cromwell, represented in a field of battle—two very fine views of rock and wood, by Salvator Rosa—a sea view, by Vandewelde—a holy family, by Simon de Pesaro—a child seizing on a crown of thorns, out of a basket of flowers, in preference to the most exquisite of the assemblage; the turn of his head beautiful—a Magdalen, by Annibal Carracci—and a horse in a stable, by Wouvermans—another Magdalen, by Trevisiani—a fine bright landscape, by Claude Lorrain—two, by Salvator Rosa—one, by Cuyp—and two humorous Dutch pieces, by Both, merit attention.”

“ *Late Lord and Lady Tavistoke*. His lordship in a red gown, furred. He is again represented in another room, in the uniform of the Dunstable hunt.”

“ In the Gallery is a head of *Lord William Russel*, the sad victim of his virtuous design of preserving our liberties and constitution from the attempts of an abandoned set of men as ever governed these kingdoms. True patriotism, not ambition, nor interest, directed his intentions. Posterity must applaud his unavailing engagements, with due censure of the Machiavelian necessity of taking off so dangerous an opposer of the machinations of his enemies. The law of politics gives sanction to the removal of every obstacle to the designs of statesmen. At the same time, we should never lessen our admiration and pity of the generous characters who fell sacrifices to their hopes of delivering purified to their descendants, the corrupted government of their own days. To attempt to clear Lord Russel from the share in so glorious a design, would be to deprive him

him of a most brilliant part of his character. His integrity and ingenuity would not suffer even himself to deny that part of the charge. Let that remain unimpeached, since he continues so perfectly acquitted of the most distant design of making assassination a means, or of intriguing with a foreign monarch, the most repugnant to our religion and freedom, to bring about so desired an end."

Over the door is *Sir Nicholas Bacon*, in a black dress, furred ; by Zuccherò.

Sir Nicholas Throgmorton.

Sir Edward Georges ; a head.

" Another head, of *Sir Josselyn Percy*, seventh son of Henry, eighth Earl of Northumberland. He and his brother Charles were concerned in the Earl of Essex's insurrection. Both received their pardons ; and Josselyn survived till 1631.

" Another of a gentleman of the name of *Rogers*, comptroller to Queen Elizabeth. I imagine him to have been Sir Edward Rogers ; a person of some consideration in the time of her accession ; for he was one of the few who waited on her at Hatfield, on the death of Queen Mary, and formed one of the privy-council held there on that great event."

" *Thomas, Earl of Exeter*, eldest son to the great Burleigh, is painted a full length.

" Notwithstanding this nobleman was inferior in abilities to his younger brother ; yet he was a man of spirit and parts. He served as a volunteer at the siege of Edinburgh Castle, in 1573 ; distinguished himself in the wars in the Low Countries ; and, with his brother, served on board the fleet which had the honour of defeating the Spanish armada. He entered also into the romantic gallantries of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was a knight tilter in the tournaments performed for the amusement of her illustrious lover the Duke of Anjou, in 1581. In the following reign he was employed as a man of busi-

ness ; was created earl of Exeter ; and finished his course, aged eighty, in February, 1622."

"Near him is the head of *Charles Brandon* duke of Suffolk, son of Sir William Brandon, standard bearer to Henry VIII. slain in the battle of Bosworth. His dress is black, with red sleeves, with the collar of the garter and the george. His beard is white ; his countenance bluff, not unlike that of his master Henry VIII. Their qualities, happily for the favourite, were different ; for the inscription with truth says, that he was "gratioso with Henry VIII. ; void of despyte ; most fortunate to the end ; never in displeasure with his kynge." He was brought up with his master, and justly beloved by him for his noble qualities, for his goodly person, courage, and conformity of disposition (I suppose only) in all his exercises and pastimes. He was a principal figure in every tilt and tournament. In his younger days (1510) he appeared at Westminster in the solemn justs, held in honour of Catherine of Arragon, in the dress of a recluse, begging of her highness permission to run in her presence ; which obtained, he instantly flung off his weeds, and came out all armed. He signalized himself at the justs at Tournay, in 1511, instituted by Margaret princess of Castile, in compliment to his royal master. The place was flagged with black marble, and the horses of the knights shod with felt, to prevent them from slipping. He here won the heart of the fair foundress of the entertainment ; but fortune reserved him for another princess.

"In 1514 he performed amazing deeds of arms at St. Dennis at the coronation of the youthful Mary, sister to Henry, on her marriage with the aged and decrepid Louis XII. The good king, says Henault, forgot his age, and met with death in her arms, in less than three months. This opened the way to the possession of the beautiful dowager. Her heart was lost to him at the preceding tournaments ; in which

which she had opportunity to compare her feeble bridegroom with the dexterity, the grace, and strength of her valiant knight; who, at single combat overthrew man and horse. The French, envious of his prowess, introduced into the lists a gigantic German, in hopes of bringing the English hero into disgrace. He treated the Almain so roughly that the French interfered; but, in a second trial, Suffolk caught him round the neck, and pummelled him so severely about the head, that they were obliged to convey the fellow away secretly; who had been surreptitiously introduced in disguise, merely on account of his strength.

“ Mary, on the death of her royal consort, proposed to Suffolk, and gave him only four days to consider of the offer. This seems concerted to save her lover from the fury of Henry, for daring to look up to a dowager of France, and, what was more, his sister. His master fortunately favoured the match. He continued beloved by the king to the end of his life; after seeing the following knights, and attendants on the conjugal festivities, the Earl of Devonshire, Lord Leonard Grey, Sir Nicholas Carew, and Anna Bullein, sent headless to their graves. But Charles went off triumphant with his royal spouse; carried with him her jewels, to the amount of 200,000 crowns; the famous diamond *le miroir de Naples*; and secured her jointure of sixty thousand crowns. He married almost as many wives as his master, leaving his fourth to survive him. He died universally lamented, in August 1545, and was buried magnificently, at the expence of his master; his loss being one of the few things that touched his hardened heart.”

Edward Clinton, first earl of Lincoln, sitting: a half-length, in black, a short ruff, bonnet, and his george; by *Cornelius Ketel*, the whimsical artist, who took it into his head to lay aside his brushes, and paint with his fingers only; and at length, find-

ing those tools too easy, undertook to paint with his toes. This nobleman was one of the most distinguished persons of his age, and shone equally as a soldier and a sailor ; for during the reigns of Henry the Eighth, Edward VI. Mary and Elizabeth, there were scarcely any expeditions in which he did not signalize himself. He was lord great admiral for thirty years, counsellor to three princes, and of unspotted reputation. In an advanced age he married for his third wife the fair Geraldine, the subject of the gallant Earl of Surry's affection and of his amorous muse. Their union never took place. It is probable that she deserted him ; for soon after his sonnet, descriptive of the fair,

“ From Tuscan came my ladies worthy race.”

follow several others, complaining of his hard lot, in experiencing the scorn and inconstancy of his mistress ; but what affects him most is the giving the preference to another of meaner rank.

“ I know (though she say nay, and wou'd it well withstand)

When in her grace thou yieldest the most, she bare the but in hand.

I see her pleasant cheere in chiefest of thy suite,
When thou art gone I see him come that gathers up the fruite ;

And eke in thy respecte, I see the base degree
Of him to whom she gave the heart that promised was to thee.”

The lady like many other beauties, humiliated by years, at length resigned the noon of her charms to this ancient peer, who quitted her and the world in 1585.

“ In this room is a portrait of *Geraldine* herself, a head. Her hair yellow : her face a proof how much beauty depends on fancy : her dress far from elegant.

“ A head

“ A head of *John Russel*, first earl of Bedford, a profile, with a long white beard, and the george hanging from his neck. This gentleman was the founder of the family, and owed his rise to his merit and accomplishment. Philip archduke of Austria, being, in 1508, driven by a storm on the coast of Dorsetshire, was entertained by Sir Thomas Trenchard; who sent for his neighbour Mr. Russel, who was skilled in the languages, to wait on his highness. The duke was so pleased with his conversation, as to insist on his going with him to the king then at Windsor. Henry, at the recommendation of the duke, took him into his service. In the following reign he advanced in fortune with vast rapidity. He fortunately was cotemporary with the fall of the monastic life, and obtained vast grants of the possessions of the church. Edward the Sixth created him earl of Bedford. The last act of his life was a voyage to Spain, to bring over Philip II. (grandson of the prince to whom he owed his rise) to espouse his royal mistress. He died in March 1555, and lies buried at Cheneis, in Buckinghamshire, with his lady; by whom he acquired that estate. The church of Cheneis, from that time, became the æterna domus of all this great family, and contains a most superb collection of different fashioned monuments.

“ *Ambrose Dudley* Earl of Warwick, a head with a bonnet, black dress, the george pendent. His third wife, lady Anne, daughter to Francis earl of Bedford in black and white sleeves, and a black body.

“ A half-length of *Henry Earl of Southampton*; by Solomon de Caus: with short grey hair; in black, with points round his waist, a flat ruff, leaning on a chair, with a mantle over one arm. This nobleman was a friend to the earl of Essex, and through friendship, not disaffection, attended him in the mad and desperate insurrection which brought the

the favourite to the block. The plea was admitted: he was condemned, but reprieved; and continued in the tower till the accession of James I. when he was instantly restored to his honours and estate.— By reason of his love to ~~the~~ Earl of Essex, he never was on good terms with the minister, the earl of Salisbury. He was one that attended Mansfield's army into the Netherlands, and died in 1624, at Bergen-op-Zoom, of a fever contracted in this fatal expedition.

Thomas Earl of Southampton, in black, with a star on his mantle.

“ *Sir William Russel*, in a black slashed vest. He was lord deputy of Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in 1594: a wise and most gallant commander, and successful in various expeditions against the rebels; but not brooking a divided power with the general, Sir John Norris, was at his own request, recalled. He was created by James I. baron of Thornhaugh, and died in 1613.

His lady is painted, dressed in great sleeves.— She was daughter of Edward Long, Esq. of Thingay, in Cambridgeshire, and died two years before her lord.

Their son *Francis*, afterwards Earl of Bedford, is painted in his childhood, in white, with green hose; with a hawk on his hand, and two dogs in couples near him.

Another portrait of *Lucy Countess of Bedford*, exactly resembles that at Alloa.

A full length of *Catherine*, wife of the second Francis Earl of Bedford, in black, with roses in her hand.

Edward Earl of Manchester, lord chamberlain to Charles II. Long hair and robes.

“ *Queen Elizabeth*, full length, with a rich gown, white, embroidered with flowers, and a fan of feathers in her hand. I find that her majesty would condescend to accept of the smallest present, as a
mark

mark of her subjects' love ; for, in passing through a Doctor Puddin's house, on her way to the celebrated wedding of Mrs. Anne Russel with Lord Herbert, she did the doctor the honour of accepting from him a fan, en passant.

“ The first *Francis Earl of Bedford*, with a long white beard and furred robe, and george pendent ; a head. Another illustrious personage of this house, who discharged several great offices in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth. Such was his hospitality, that the latter used to say of him, that he made all the beggars. He died, aged fifty-eight, on the 28th of July 1585, the day after his third son, Sir Francis was slain, happily unknowing of the misfortune.

“ This youth, and his elder brother *Edward Lord Russel*, are represented in small full lengths, in two paintings ; and so alike, as scarcely to be distinguished : both dressed in white close jackets, and black-and-gold cloaks, and black bonnets. The date by Lord Edward, is aet. 22, 1573. He is represented grasping in one hand some snakes, with this motto, *Fides homini, serpentibus fraus* : and in the back ground he is placed standing in a labyrinth, and above is inscribed, *Fata viam invenient*.— This young nobleman also died before his father.

“ His brother *Francis* has his accompaniments not less singular. A lady, seemingly in distress, is represented sitting in the back ground, surrounded with snakes, a dragon, crocodile, and cock. At a distance the sea, with a ship under full sail. The story is not well known ; but it certainly alludes to a family transaction similar to that in Otway's Orphan, and gave rise to it. He by the attendants, was perhaps the Polydore of the history. Edward seems by his motto, *Fides homini, serpentibus fraus*, to have been the Castalio, conscious of his own integrity, and indignant at the perfidy of his brother. The ship alludes to the desertion of the lady. If it conveyed

conveyed Sir Francis to Scotland, it was to his punishment ; for he fell there on July 27th, 1585, in a border affray.

“ A full length of *Henry Danvers*, created Baron Dauntsey, by James I. and Earl of Danby by Charles I. ; a full length by Vandyck. His beard square and yellow ; his jacket black ; over that a red mantle, furred and laced with gold. His rich armour lies by him, near him is written “ *Omnia præcepi.*” He was the son of Sir John Danvers of Dauntsey in Wiltshire, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Nevil Lord Latimer. His eldest brother, Sir Charles Danvers, lost his head for his concern in Essex’s insurrection. James, who on all occasions testified his respect to that unhappy nobleman, countenanced every family who suffered in his cause, accordingly had Danvers restored in blood. Besides a peerage, he made him governor of Guernsey for life. Charles promoted him to an earldom, and created him knight of the garter. He passed his life as a soldier, under Maurice prince of Orange, in the Low Countries ; under Henry IV. in France ; and under the Earl of Essex and Lord Monjoy in Ireland. At length in 1644, died, as his epitaph says, at his house of Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire, full of honours, wounds, (verified in the portrait, by a great patch on his forehead) and days, in the seventy first year of his age. Besides his military glory, we may add that of founding the physic garden at Chelsea, in 1632 ; purchasing for that use the ground, (once the Jews cemetery) and inclosing it with a wall and beautiful gate, at the expence of five thousand pounds.”

“ An Earl of *Rutland*, a full length, in a rich flowered jacket, red full skirts, a single laced ruff, short hair and beard, brown boots : a plumed helmet near him. He wears the honour of the george. From his boots (a fashionable part of dress in the time of James I. and Charles I.) I suspect him to

to be Francis Earl of Rutland, who commanded the fleet which conveyed Charles, when Prince of Wales, in his return from his romantic expedition into Spain. This nobleman died in 1632.

Giles, the third Lord Chandos, in a high crowned hat, white jacket, black gown, laced with silver, short hair and beard. Æt. 43, 1589. He died in 1594.

His lady, *Frances*, daughter of the first Earl of Lincoln, and wife to William Ascough, son to Sir Francis Ascough, of Lincolnshire.

A head of *Catherine*, youngest daughter to the treasurer, Earl of Suffolk, and wife to William Earl of Salisbury. She in a flowered dress; her ruff worked with gold, and her breasts naked.

“The head of her infamous sister, *Anne Countess of Somerset*, is placed over one of the doors, dressed in black, striped with white, and her ruff and ruffles starched with yellow. This fashion soon expired; for her bawd and creature, Mrs. Turner, went to Tyburn in a yellow ruff, and put the wearers out of conceit with it. I need not enlarge on the well-known marriage and divorce of this lady from the Earl of Essex. They are too well known to be insisted on; as is her weakness in having recourse to the imposter Forman for philtres to debilitate Essex, and impel the affections of Somerset towards her. Her wickedness in procuring the death of Overbury, who obstructed this union; her sudden fall, and confession of her guilt on her trial, need no repetition. Her Earl avowed his innocency; he had been more covert in his proceedings. Her passions were more violent, her resentment greater, and, of course, her caution less. They both obtained an unmerited pardon, or rather reprieve, being confined in the Tower till the year 1622, and then confined by the way of indulgence, in the house of Lord Wallingford. The little delicacy which people of rank too frequently shew, by countenancing
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the vices of their equals, was conspicuous at this time. The countess felt their pity, and was visited even by the stern Anne Clifford. Somerset lived with his lady, after their confinement, with the strongest mutual hatred; the certain consequence of vicious associations. He died in the year 1645: she died before him. In her end may be read a fine lesson on the vengeance of providence on the complicated wickedness of her life. It may be held up as a mirror to posterity, persuasive to virtue, and teach that heaven inflicted a finite punishment on the criminal, in mercy to her, and as a warning to future generations."

In this gallery is a full-length of a Nobleman, in a black jacket, double ruff, brown boots, and stick in his hand: armour by him: a manly figure, with short black hair, and square beard; miscalled *Carr*, *Earl of Somerset*, this lady's husband.

A portrait of a very different character, in the head of Lady Cook, dated 1585, æt. 44. She has on a quilled ruff, is dressed in black, richly ornamented with pearls. I apprehend this lady to have been the wife of the son of Sir Anthony Cook, one of the tutors of Edward VI. and distinguished by being father to five daughters, the wonders of their age for intellectual accomplishments.

Margaret, Countess of Cumberland, is dressed much like the former. She was youngest daughter to the first Francis, Earl of Bedford, and wife to the celebrated George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland.

Lady Bindloss, wife to Sir Francis Bindloss, of Berwick, near Lancaster, and daughter to Thomas, third Lord Delawar.

Lady Wimbledon, wife of Lord Wimbledon.

"*Christiana*, daughter to Edward Lord Bruce, of Kinloss, and wife to the second William, Earl of Devonshire, a small head, with long hair, her dress white. This lady, who is less talked of than others, was by far the most illustrious character of the age in which

which she lived. Her virtues, domestic and public, were of the most exalted kind. Hospitality, charity, and piety, were in her pre-eminent. I speak not of her great maternal cares ; nature dictates that more or less in all the sex : but her abilities in the management of the vast affairs of her family, perplexed with numberless litigations, gave her a distinguished character. She at least equalled her lord in loyalty, and was indefatigable in inciting the nobility, who had quitted the cause of majesty, to expiate their error. After the battle of Worcester, she lived three years in privacy at her brother's house at Ampthill, and had correspondence with several great personages, on the subject of restoring the exiled king. The reserved Monk had such an opinion of her prudence, as to communicate to her the signal by which she might know his intentions on that subject. She lived in high esteem to a very advanced age ; died in 1674, and was interred, by her beloved lord, at Derby.

“ It is no wonder that so illustrious a character should attract the notice of the poets. She had the honour of being celebrated by one equal in rank to herself. That accomplished nobleman William Earl of Pembroke, wrote several poems to her, and dedicated a collection of them to her. ‘ There is wit and ease in several ; but a great want of correction, and often of harmony. The following is the least faulty : the subject

“ *That he would not be beloved.*

“ Disdain me still, that I may ever love,
 For who his love enjoys can love no more :
 The war once past, with peace men cowards prove,
 And ships returned do rot upon the shore,
 Then tho’ thou frown, I’ll say thou art most fair,
 And still I’ll love, tho’ still I must despair.
 As heat to life, so is desire to love ;

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For these once quench'd, both life and love are done.

Let not my sighs and tears thy virtue move ;
Like basest metals, do not melt too soon :
Laugh at my woes, although I ever mourn :
Love surfeits with rewards ; his nurse is scorn."

We must not omit to notice that several of the pictures described by Mr. Pennant have been exchanged for others ; among other additions, the late duke added a choice cabinet collection, consisting of some very valuable pictures, by Cuyp, Teniers, Berghem, Rubens, and a celebrated cattle-piece, by Paul Potter. This collection is in a small room at the end of the library, fitted up in the Etruscan style.

In this room are 13 Etruscan vases, purchased at Lord Cawdor's sale, who brought them from the Vatican at Rome.

The fate of Hyppolitus, by Rubens, is a small but very beautiful painting.

The subject is taken from the 15th book of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Hyppolitus relates the manner of his death.

" With horror wrapt, and fierce with mad'ning fears,
The foaming horses high erect their ears,
O'er rugged rocks the shatter'd chariot drive,
While I to curb their fury vainly strive,
And pull the reins, extended at my length ;
Yet had their vigour not o'erpower'd my strength,
But that the fervent wheel, with sudden stroke
Whirl'd on a rugged stump, asunder broke.
Thrown from my chariot, in the reins fast bound,
My quiv'ring entrails smok'd upon the ground,
And every limb disjointed with the shock,
Hung on the stump or bled upon the rock."

From the Duke's apartments, on the south side of the mansion, a covered way, or piazza, leads to the

the *Green-house*, a handsome building, containing a great variety of valuable plants. Here is to be seen the celebrated Bacchanalian vase, of which Mr. Tatham has given the following description :

“ This superb monument of antique decoration was dug up some centuries ago, among the ruins of Adrian’s Villa, together with the fragments of three other vases of nearly similar dimensions, all of which appeared, by the situation in which they were found, to have occupied the same spot of that once extensive and magnificent emporium of art.

“ It was then removed to the villa Lanti, near Rome, where for many years it attracted the notice, and excited the admiration, of both the traveller and artist. This and one at Warwick Castle, which is somewhat more decorated, are the only complete vases of the same dimensions and antiquity extant ; and are, unquestionably, the most magnificent and noble-sculptured specimens of antique decoration of this kind ever discovered.

“ The Lanti vase was brought from Rome, about twelve years ago, at a considerable risk and expence, by the Right Honourable Lord Cawdor, on whose classical taste and judgment it must ever confer the highest credit. The removal of this grand work of art from that city caused great jealousy among the superintendants of the Vatican Museum, then forming under the auspices of the reigning pontiff, the late Pius IV. who, it is well known, in his resentment on this occasion, threatened several persons concerned in the removal of the vase, with the gallies.”

“ The dimensions of the vase are : diameter of the mole, six feet three inches ; height, with its present plinth, six feet nine inches.”

Here are also some excellent statues, particularly an Apollo Belvidere, a group of Cupid

and Pysche, and two figures of Venus in different positions.

From the east end of the green-house, the piazza continues nearly a mile in length to the dairy. This beautiful structure is in the Chinese style ; the windows are filled with painted glass, and the situation cool, shady, and pleasant.

The great stables mentioned by Mr. Pennant, as part of the cloisters of the abbey, were pulled down by the late duke ; and a suite of rooms has been erected on their site.

The present stables form the wings of a very handsome building, the centre of which is occupied by the tennis-court and riding house. The former is 108 feet in length. The riding house, including a gallery at the end for spectators, 130.

The Park is about twelve miles round, surrounded with a wall eight feet high. It contains a pleasing variety of hill and dale, with remarkable fine woods of noble oaks. Winding through these woods, we arrive at the Duchess's Shrubbery, containing sixteen acres of land, beautifully laid out in the modern taste, with many of the largest and finest oaks in it. From thence we advance to the hill at the north end, from which there is an extensive and beautiful prospect into Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and the circumjacent country. Turning down the hill to the left, the riding leads to the evergreen plantation of above two hundred acres of land, which fifty years ago was a barren rabbit warren, but now a very beautiful ride on a dry soil, through avenues of all sorts of evergreens, of a noble growth, so that you can ride in shelter in the depth of winter, and through a perpetual vedure.

About the middle of this plantation is a handsome temple, retired and pleasing. At the end is the lower water, covering about ten acres, with an island in the centre, upon which is a very elegant
and

and light Chinese temple, large enough for thirty people to dine in.

The park, which is one of the largest in the kingdom, contains 3,000 acres of a great variety of soils, from a light sand to a rich loam, which yields a grass good enough to fatten large beasts.

We have already noticed in our account of the agriculture of the county how much it has been improved by the influence and example of the late Duke of Bedford, with whom the plan of the Park Farm at Woburn originated, and through whose patronage and exertions many improvements have been made in the different branches of husbandry.

BATTLEDEN, a small village, about three miles from Woburn, on the left of our road, was formerly the seat and residence of Allen, Lord Bathurst, of Battlesden, and the occasional resort of the celebrated constellation of wits of whom he was the patron and the friend. The manor at present belongs to Sir Gregory Page Turner, Baronet.

About a mile south from Battlesden, is the village of HOCKLIFFE, which from its low miry situation acquired the appellation of Hockley-in-the-Hole. The roads about it have been lately much improved. There was an ancient hospital or religious house at Hockcliffe, dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, founded previous to the reign of King John. There are no remains of it existing.

LEIGHTON BUZARD,

Or, as it was anciently written, Leighton *Beau-desert*, is a considerable market town, situated on the borders of Buckinghamshire, in the hundred of Manshead and deanery of Dunstable. This place is said to be the *Lygean burgh* of the Saxon Chronicle, which was taken from the Britons by Cuthwulph, in the year 571.

The market is held on Tuesdays, and is one of the most ancient in the county : at the time of the

Norman survey the tolls were valued at seven pounds. The commodities sold in the market are cattle, grocery, corn, lace, platted straw, &c. The town derives considerable advantage from the proximity of the Grand Junction Canal, which passes it within a furlong on the west side, where the river Ouzel separates the counties of Bedford and Bucks. The channel of the canal is of sufficient depth to carry craft of eighty tons burthen.

There are also six fairs: February 5, the second Tuesday in April, Whitsun Tuesday, July 26, October 24, and the second Tuesday in December. Some of these fairs are noted for a large sale of horses.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, the parish of Leighton Buzard (exclusive of the hamlets), then contained 376 houses, and 1963 inhabitants.

The parish Church is a handsome Gothic structure, containing several monuments of the families of Leigh, Wingate, Welles, and Wilts. In the nave there is a tablet to the memory of John Pulford, M. A. who died in 1710. "He made an augmentation," says his epitaph, "to the poor vicarage of Leighton, with a liberality not unworthy the greatest prelate." The augmentation at present produces about sixty pounds per annum.

There was a fraternity or brotherhood in the church of Leighton. Some remains of their hall are still standing in Broad Street, not far from the cross.

In this town is an Almshouse for eight poor women, founded by Matthew Wilks, in 1630. They receive three shillings each weekly, besides being provided with firing and clothes.

In 1790 the Honourable Mrs. Leigh, who possesses the manor, built a house for the Sunday schools, to which she subscribes 20l. per annum.

The

The principal antiquity of Leighton Buzard is a beautiful Gothic cross, of a pentagonal form, said to have been erected 500 years; but by whom, or for what purpose, is not correctly known.

In the year 1650, it was presented at the court-leet as being in such a ruinous state, that it greatly endangered the lives of those persons who were passing near it. Upon this occasion a rate of 4d. was levied upon every inhabitant to defray the charge of repairing it.

The height of the cross is twenty-seven feet two inches, from the top of the stone work to the basement story, which is seven feet four inches from the ground, at the lowest side, and consists of five rows of steps rising from the earth. The centre pillar, which supports the arch, is eight feet two inches high, and one foot one inch and a quarter wide, on the side fronting the largest angle. The upper story is disposed into five niches, and there were formerly as many pinnacles at the corners; but one of them has been destroyed: each niche contained a statue. The first appears to have been intended to represent a bishop, another seems like the Virgin and Jesus; a third appears to be Saint John the Evangelist; the others are too much mutilated to be known. Over each arch attached to the cornice, surrounding the building, there were three grotesque heads.

The entire height of the cross, from the lowest base to the top of the vane, is thirty-eight feet. It is constructed of stone, and is situated in an open area, near the market-house.

At a place called GROVEBURY, in this parish, there was formerly a cell of foreign monks, established here by the abbess and Cistercian nuns of Font Everard in Normandy, to whom King Henry II. granted a manor in Leighton.

There

There was also a house of Cistercian Monks in Leighton, which was a cell to Woburn Abbey.

The parish of Leighton contains the five following hamlets: *Heath* commonly called Heath-and-Reach, Billington, Egginton, Stanbridge, and Clipson. The four first have chapels of ease.

In the Chapel at Stanbridge there is a monument in memory of Henry Honner, and Jane his wife, who lived together in wedlock sixty years; he died in 1627, at the age of 95; she in 1629, at the age of 86.

About half a mile from Leighton Buzard, on the heath, is an inclosure, nearly circular, containing several fields surrounded by a ditch, which in many parts is deep, and the whole has very much the appearance of an ancient incampment.

Journey from Turvey to Potton; through Bedford and Biggleswade.

TURVEY is a small village, on the borders of Buckinghamshire, on the road from Northampton to Bedford, in the hundred of Willey and deanery of Clopham. The ancient family of Mordaunt had a seat in this parish, and were lords of the manor. Turvey Hall, after having been long deserted, by its noble owners and occupied as a farm, was sold by the present Earl of Peterborough to the late William Fuller, Esq. a banker in London, and is now the property of his daughters. The manor was purchased by Charles Higgins, Esq. whose nephew, John Higgins, Jun. Esq. is the present proprietor. Mr. Higgin's seat is called Turvey Abbey.

In the parish Church are monuments of Sir John Mordaunt, and the three first Baron Mordaunts. Sir John was chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and father of the first Lord Mordaunt. He died in the year 1504, having by his will founded a chantry in the parish Church of Turvey, and endowed

dowed it for the support of two chaplains, to pray for the souls of himself, his kindred and ancestors. His effigies is represented in armour, over which is a robe with a collar of S S. The effigies of his lady is in a robe and a rich coif.

The monument of the first Lord Mordaunt has the effigies of himself and his lady. He is represented in armour, with a robe; she is in a robe with puckered sleeves, and has a head-dress, such as was worn in the reign of Henry VIII.

Upon the monument of Henry, the second Lord Mordaunt, in the north chancel, is his effigies in armour, between those of his two wives, under an open canopy, supported by columns of the Doric order. In the same chancel is a plain altar tomb, in memory of Lewis the third Lord Mordaunt.

Over the altar is a picture of our Saviour and his disciples, on the road to Emmaus, given to the parish by the present rector.

In the chancel of the parish Church of BROMHAM, a village about four miles from Turvey, is a very handsome monument of Lord Trevor, an eminent lawyer, who had been Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and at the time of his death in 1730, was Lord Privy Seal and President of the Council. There is also a handsome monument to the memory of John, the third Lord Trevor, who died in 1664, executed in marble by Prince Hoare. On the floor in the chancel are the figures in brass of Sir John Dyve; his mother, who was heiress of Thomas Wylde, lord of the manor of Bromham, and his wife Isabel. In the north aisle is a handsome monument, with the effigies of a man in armour, lying under a canopy, supported by four Ionic columns, supposed to be that of John Dyve, Esq.

The manor of Bromham, at the time of the Norman survey, was part of the extensive possessions of Hugh de Beauchamp. It is now the property

perty of the Right Honourable Thomas Hampden Trevor, Viscount Hampden.

The manor-house was for many years the seat of the noble family of Trevor, and the late Viscount Hampden frequently made it his residence. At the entrance is a pointed door-way, which appears to have belonged to a much more ancient edifice.

The hall contains several family portraits ; among which are those of Sir Richard Trevor, a distinguished officer, knighted in the field by Queen Elizabeth ; Sir Richard Trevor of Placetage, a fine picture, in the manner of Cornelius Janson ; Sir John Trevor of Trevallyn ; Sir Thomas Trevor, chief Baron of the Exchequer and first Lord Trevor : Lord Chief Justice Dyer, and a few others.

At Bromham we cross the river Ouse, of which Walsingham relates a singular circumstance which happened in this neighbourhood. On the first of January, in the year 1399, the river suddenly ceased to flow between the villages of Snelson and Harold, near Bedford, leaving its channel so bare of water that people walked at the bottom full three miles. This remarkable phænomenon has been variously explained : it was interpreted by the superstitious to presage the division of the nation, and their revolt from the king. Dr. Childrey endeavours to account for it, by supposing that the stream upward was congealed by a sudden frost. Bishop Gibson in his addition of Camden's Britannia, gravely tells us the same thing happened, as he was informed, January 18th, or 28th, 1648, previous to the death of King Charles I.

Previous to our passing through Bedford, which we have already visited, we shall take the opportunity of correcting some particulars in an account of that place. There is at present no house occupied by the single brethren of the society of Moravians. It was some years since converted into a school.

a school. The number of these recluse and in-offensive sectaries has of late considerably decreased, and that enthusiastic spirit by which they were once so much distinguished has very much abated.

There has been 40 years past at Bedford, a Methodist Chapel of the Westleyan persuasion. Mr. Westley is reported to have said, that Methodism would not flourish at Bedford, because it experienced no persecution. Within these few years, however, their numbers have, as in almost all other places, greatly encreased, and a handsome chapel has been lately erected on the site of the old one. A small Jewish Synagogue, also has been established within the last three years, encouraged by the spirit of toleration, which remarkably prevails in this place. The Jews settled at Bedford are persons of unexceptionable conduct and morals.

The County Gaol, the County Infirmary, and the House of Industry, mentioned in our account of Bedford, are all of them remarkably well adapted to their respective purposes, and were planned by the same excellent architect, Mr. John Wing, of Bedford; a man equally esteemed for his talents and integrity. In consequence of the laudable exertion of the inhabitants, very great improvements have been made, in the course of the last ten or fifteen years, chiefly under the superindendance of Mr. Wing, in this ancient, but by no means unpleasant or unsocial town; and many others of considerable magnitude, are said to be in no distant contemplation.

ELSTOW, two miles from Bedford, is a perpetual curacy or donative tenable, with any preferment, and in the gift of Mr. Whitbread, by whom we have been informed it was, a short time since, presented in a most generous manner to the worthy and respectable clergyman who now enjoys it, without the least solicitation or expectation on his part.

In

In the parish Church of COPLE, a small village, about four miles and a half east from Bedford, are tombs with brass figures of the families of Launcelyn, Roland, and Grey. The Launcelyns contributed towards the building of the Church, as appears by their arms cut in stone on one of the pillars. In the chancel are two altar tombs, with effigies in brass in memory of Sir Walter Luke, Justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1544; and Nicholas Luke, Baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1563.

The parish Church of Willington, the adjoining township, is a handsome Gothic structure. It contains several monuments of the family of Gostwyck: the most ancient is a brass plate in memory of Robert Gostwick, Esq, who died in 1315. The monument of Sir John Gostwick, master of the horse to King Henry VIII. was put up in 1541, by his son, soon after his purchase of the manor. The arms in Sir John's monument has on the chief three horse's heads couped, in allusion to his office, differing from others of the Gostwick family. The monument of Sir William Gostwick, the first baronet, who died in the year 1615, has his effigies in alabaster, in armour. That of Sir Edward Gostwick, who died in 1632, is a mural monument, with the effigies of himself and his lady in kneeling attitudes. The village of Wellington, is described by Leland in the following words: "The village of Willinton is commodiously set in a fair gravelly ground and fair wood in some places about it. It belonged to the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, and since come by partition, to the Lord Mowbray of Axholme. Mr. Gostwicke being born here, bought this manor of the Duke of Norfolk now living, and hath made a sumptuous new building, of bricke and lyme, *a fundamentis* with a conduit of water derived in leaden pipes. Ther was not very far from the place wher Mr. Gostwick hath builded, an old maner place wher
in

in times past some of the Mulbrays lay for a start, now it is clene down but the place is notably seen wher it was."

The parish Church of Northill, a village about four miles on the right of our road, and eight miles east from Bedford, is a large and handsome gothic structure. It was made collegiate in the reign of Henry IV. and endowed for the support of a warden or master, and a discretionary number of fellows, chaplains or ministers, who were to pray for the souls of Sir John Traylly, knight, and Reginal his son. At the Dissolution of religious houses, the lanus belonging to this college were valued 61l. 5s. 5d.

In the chancel there are several monuments of the family of the Harveys of Ickwellbury, and the following epitaph upon Capel Berrow, a theological writer of some note, who was curate of this parish forty years.

"Quicquid fuit mortale Rev. Capel Berrow, A. M. Hon. Gul. Comitibus Cowper a Sacris, sub hoc marmore conditur; immortale vero ut pium est credere, cœlum conscendit beatorum ordinibus ascribendum. Quippe si quem Virtus Egregia, singularis humanitatis, cultusque numinis fervidus ac frequens merito commendant, hunc integerima plane vita, facile ingenium ac liberale ut animus uni sceleri insensus, laudibus abunde cumularunt. Hujus paroch 40. circitur annos pastor miro quodam impetu verborum et delectu munus divinum illustravit; et quid verum atque decens non dixisse solum visus est orator sed inspirantem sui cordis tabulam etiam et transcripisse. Patri quidem optime promerito, 5 Cal. Nov. 1751 vita defuncto Æt. Anno 70, hoc pietatis et affectus monumentum filii higenes posuere."

The east window of the chancel is fitted up with stained glass, celebrated for having been the workmanship of J. Oliver. It is over the communion table under a pointed arch, with ornaments at the

top in stone work. It is disposed in three compartments. The centre contains the royal arms, the right hand division the arms of the grocer's company, and of the master and second warden; and the compartment on the left the arms of Margaret Lady Slayny, and of the third and fourth wardens, with the name of the artist at the bottom. Beneath the motto in the centre is, A. D. 1664. 16 Caroli II. and an inscription purporting that the window was glazed and the chancel ceiled and beautified by the Company of Grocers, who purchased the impropriation, and settled it for the sole benefit of church, according to the trust and appointment of the above mentioned Lady Slayney. The colours are still very perfect, and the whole in good preservation.

Mr. Arthur Young, in his six weeks' tour, notices the windows of the rectory on account of their being adorned with two small pieces of painted glass by the above artist, containing a fly, so exquisitely executed "as to exceed the power of imagination to conceive." One is a common house fly, painted in the centre of a dial, in very ordinary green glass; the other a larger fly, with two cherries before it; in the middle of another dial on the same kind of glass. The wings are painted on one side, and the body and legs on the other which causes a pleasing deception. Upon the dials are the mottos "Dum spectus fugio," and "Sic transit gloria mundi." On the bottom of one of them is "John Oliver fecit."

SANDY, in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, so called from the nature of its soil, is a place of great antiquity, being one of the two cities described by Ptolomy as situated in the country of the Cattieuchlani; Verulam, now St. Albans, was the other. It was also a Roman station, the SALINÆ of Ravennas, as is sufficiently proved by the great number of coins and other

other antiquities found in its vicinity. Mr. Aubrey mentions glass urns, and one of red earth, like coral, with an inscription, that were found here; and also some coins found in *Chesterfield*, a piece of ground adjoining the village, and occupied by gardeners. In 1729 Mr. Degge shewed the antiquary Society, a Roman coin, of eight ounces, and a British gold coin, with the word *TASCIA*, found here. In 1728, Mr. Bromsall shewed the same society a brass female head, about three inches high, which he supposed to be that of Boadicea. In the piece of ground called *Chesterfield* above mentioned, a unerary urn was dug up, containing bones and ashes, with several articles of a lady's toilet; particularly a hair-pin, of the kind called *hasta recurva*; and a curious mirror or speculum, about two inches square, seemingly composed of a mixture of copper, silver, and iron.

At a short distance from Sandy, on a spot called *Galley Hill*, is a Roman encampment, overlooking their station in *Chesterfield*. The form is irregular; it is surrounded by a rampart and ditch, inclosing an area of about thirty acres. The north and east make two sides of a square. The west projects out towards the river *Ivel*, which passes the village. In the middle is a tumulus, such as is seen in many camps, probably for the *Prætorium*. At some distance across the valley is *Cæsar's Camp*.

A great part of the ground at *Galley Hill*, has been broken, and lies in holes and hillocks, which some suppose to be the remains of the foundations of a city, but more probably occasioned by digging for stone to make the road from the ford of the *Ivel* to *Bedford*.

The Roman military way that passes *Cæsar's Camp* enters *Bedfordshire* near *Baldock*, in the line of the present *North road*, with which it continues as far as *Stretton*, between the 44th and 45th

mile stone, when the modern turnpike road turns off to the left towards Biggleswade, while the Roman road, preserves its original straight line directly forward, to Chesterfield. From the north-east part of Cæsar's Camp, near the banks of the Ivel, the road is continued through a small valley, and crossing the road from Tempsford to Everton, passes over Tempsford Marsh, and enters Cambridgeshire, pursuing a direct line to Godmanchester, which is universally allowed to be a Roman town, the scite of the ancient *Durolipons*.

BIGGLESWADE,

Is a considerable market town, pleasantly situated on the great North road, and near the river Ivel, which has been made navigable up to the town by act of parliament. Coals, timber, and grain are the principal commodities brought by the stream for the supply of this place and neighbourhood.

The thoroughfare situation of Bedford has very much contributed to augment its population, at the same time it has greatly added to its prosperity and wealth.

The parish includes the small hamlets of Stotton and Holme, and according to the returns under the population act in 1801, then contained 317 houses and 1794 inhabitants.

The market is held on Wednesdays, and there are five annual fairs on the days mentioned in our list.

There is a small manufactory of white thread, lace, and edging, which employs many of the female inhabitants.

The town of Biggleswade sustained great damage by a terrible fire, which happened on the 18th of June 1785, and raged for some hours with great fury. One hundred and twenty dwelling houses were laid in ashes, besides corn-chambers, malt-houses, &c. all in the centre of the town round the market place. The damages were estimated at 24,000*l*.

The present improved appearance of this town
is

is owing to this accident ; the houses having been mostly rebuilt of brick, and agreeable to the modern style.

The parish Church is an ancient and handsome Gothic structure, erected in the year 1230. The chancel was rebuilt about the year 1467, by John Reeding, archdeacon of Bedford, whose arms are to be seen under the seats of some ancient wooden stalls in the north aisle. He died in the year 1481, and lies buried in the chancel. This church was formerly collegiate, and several stalls are still remaining.

A Charity School was founded at Stratton in this parish, by Sir John Cotton, who died in 1752, for the education of twelve poor children, of the parish of Biggleswade, and having bequeathed the sum of 1800*l.* to be laid out in lands for charitable purposes, directed that two-ninths of the rents should be appropriated as a salary for the master of this school, who is to be nominated from time to time by the lord of the manor of Stratton. Another proportion of one ninth is paid to the vicar of Biggleswade, in pursuance of Sir John Cotton's will.

Another school was founded at Holme in this parish by Edward Peake, of Southill, in the year 1557, for instructing eight poor boys of the parish of Biggleswade, English, writing, and accounts. It is endowed with a rent charge of 13*l.* per annum, and a tenement at Holme, valued at 2*l.* 3*s.* per annum. These schools are at present under the same master ; a circumstance very conducive to the interests and intention of both charities.

The manor of Stratton is at present the property and seat of Charles Barnet, Esq.

In June 1770, a ploughman ridging the land pretty deep, near the site of the old manor house, struck against the upper part of a yellow earthen-pot, containing three hundred gold coins of Henry VI. They were sold from 17*s.* to one guinea each ;

but afterwards at one guinea and a half. They were a little larger than a half-crown, and wanted twenty grains of the weight of one guinea or 3s 4d. on the front was represented a ship, with the king in armour, holding a sword and a shield, on which were the arms of France and England quarterly; on the side of the ship was a lion passant, between two fleur de lis. On the reverse was a cross, between four lions passant, crowned. The legend upon the reverse was, "*Jesus autem transiens per-medium illoru ibat.*"

POTTON,

Is a considerable market town, pleasantly situated on the borders of Cambridgeshire, in the hundred Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford.

The market is held on Saturday, and though not so great as formerly, is still well supplied with all sorts of grain, particularly wheat and barley. In the year 1227, a fair was granted by charter to Henry de Braybroke, one of the justices of the King's Bench, who then possessed the manor. There are at present four fairs: February 2d, Old Lady day, Old Midsummer day, and October, 26.

Great part of this town was destroyed by fire in the year 1783, more than fifty dwelling houses were consumed, besides outhouses, &c. The damage was estimated at upwards of 25,000*l*. Tents were erected for the inhabitants, in the neighbouring fields, under which they remained until better residences could be got ready for their reception. Above 6000*l*. were collected for the poorest of the sufferers.

According to the returns under the population act, in the year 1801, Potton than contained 239 houses, and 1103 inhabitants.

About a mile and a half south from Potton, is SUTTON, the ancient seat and royalty of John of Gaunt,

Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, third son of Edward the Third. It was given to Sir Roger Burgoyne, by the following rhyming grant, said to be preserved in the Arches, Doctors Commons.

“ I John of Gaunt
Do give and graunt
Unto Roger Burgoyne
And the heirs of his loine,
Both Sutton and Potton,
Until the world's rotten.”

Sir Montague Burgoyne is the present proprietor of the manor.

The learned Bishop Stillingfleet was presented to the rectory of Sutton in 1657, by Sir Roger Burgoyne, the second baronet; and here he wrote his “ *Origines Sacrae*; or a rational account of the grounds and necessity of revealed religion.” One of the best defences of revelation ever published. He resigned the living in 1665.

In the parish Church of EYWORTH, a village, about three miles from Putton, on the borders of Cambridgeshire, there are several monuments of the Andersons, who have been lords of the manor ever since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. On the south side of the chancel is the monument of Sir Edmund Anderson, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a man of considerable eminence in his profession, and one of the judges who sat at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots. Upon the monument is the effigies of himself and his lady, under a richly ornamented arch; he is represented in his robes and cap, with a collar of S. S. On the opposite side of the chancel is the monument of Sir Francis Anderson, eldest son of the chief justice, whose effigies, in gilt armour, is represented between those of his two wives, kneeling and fronting the chancel. On the south side of the chancel is the monument of
Edmund

Edmund Anderson Esq. of Stratton, eldest son of Sir Francis, who died in 1638. Upon it are half length figures of himself and his wife Alice, in white marble, their hands jointly holding a heart, on which are inscribed these words, "To God." On the floor is the tomb of Alice viscountess Verulam and baroness of St. Alban's, widow of the great Lord Chancellor Bacon, who died in 1656.



RARE PLANTS

Found in Bedfordshire.

Ornithogalum Pyrenaicum, near Eaton Socon.

Anemone Apennina, in the woods near Luton Hoe.

Astiagalus Arenarius, on both sides of Barton Hills, four miles from Luton.

Bupleurum tenuifolium ; in meadows and pastures, near Etesley in the road from Cambridge to St. Neot's.

Convallaria maialis, in the woods near Woburn.

Campanula Latifolia and *Eriophoron polystachion*, found near Dunstable.

Centunculus Minimus, near Ampthill.

Dianthus Deltoides, on sandy hills not far from the Roman Camp.

Gentiana Asmarella, on Barton Hills, above mentioned, and in the neighbourhood of Dunstable.

Geranium phæum, near Eversholt.

Hippocrepis Comesa, on the Chalk Hills.

Hyoserris minima, near Apsley and Ampthill.

Lythrum Hyssopifolium, grows plentifully in the fields between Oakley and Clopham.

Malaxis paludosa, grows in the neighbourhood of Potton.

Melampyrum Cristatum, in the woods near Blunham.

Monotropa hypopithys, in the woods universally.

Pimpinella Major, in the woods and hedges on a lime stone soil.

To these may be added. *Hypochaeris glabra* ; *Salix rubra* ; *Alisma ranunculoides* ; *Inula Helenium* ; *Trifolium ochroleucum* ; *Carex* [*Strigosa* and *Phlaum Paniculatum*.

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Cooke, George A.,

Topographical and statistical description of the county of Bedford containing an account of its situation, extent, towns ...; to which is prefixed a copious travelling guide ... ; forming a complete county itinerary ; also, a list of the markets and fairs

London [circa 1820]

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